SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

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JACK'S JOY

Lifelong fan's bonus for 107th birthday

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DERBY WOE

Late penalty breaks Baggies' hearts

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COUNCIL PAIR 'RIGHT TO GO'

LOCAL Government chief Eric Pickles has said Sandwell Council's deputy leader was right to resign over allegations relating to the sale of council property.

The Secretary of State made his comments after deputy leader Mahboob Hussain and Ian Jones, the cabinet member for jobs and economy, both stood down.

by Peter Madeley

The move followed fresh allegations whjich came to light last week, concerning the sale of some old public toilets.

Councillor Hussain has been the subject of a police investigation since October over irregularities concerning the sale of council land to his son. Mr Pickles said that due to the serious nature of the allegations, stepping down was the sensible thing for Councillor Hussain to do. "He would not have been able to give his role the best shot had he continued with such allegations hanging over him," said Mr Pickles.

Sensible

"When people decide to stay on in these types of circumstances, it's never wise. Standing down is the sensible thing to do. I'm sure there is no blockage for him to return to office should he be found innocent," he added.

Councillor Hussain, who represents Oldbury, stood down as deputy leader on Friday having previously left his role chairing the council's asset management and land disposal committee. It is the first time that Councillor Jones, who represents Tipton Green, has been accused of wrongdoing.

The fresh allegation is understood to have been made internally at the council and is not part of the police investigation.

It claims normal processes and procedures were not followed in relation to the sale of some redundant public toilets. The toilets concerned are understood to be in Albert Street, Oldbury; Jervoise Lane, Stone Cross and the Shambles, Wednesbury. Councillor Hussain has also faced questions over the sale of the old Smethwick coroner's office in Crocketts Lane to his son Azeem Hafeez.

The asset land and disposal committee had approved officers' recommendations to sell the office.

Councillors Hussain and Jones have both strenuously denied any impropriety and have vowed to co-operate fully with any inquiry. They also made voluntary requests to be placed on administrative suspension by the Labour party.

A police investigation relating to Councillor Hussain's alleged involvement in the sale of council land is still ongoing.

Last September Councillor Hussain apologised after it was revealed he had failed to declare a business interest in Five Star Taxis which was awarded contracts by Sandwell Council.

Smiles as primary is rated as 'good'

STAFF and pupils at a school are celebrating after achieving a 'good' overall rating in a Ofsted inspection, while elements were rated as 'outstanding'.

A three-strong inspection team led by lead inspector Michael Appleby visited the George Betts Primary Academy, in West End Avenue, Smethwick at the end of January.

They found the school's leadership and management to be outstanding, along with the behaviour and safety of pupils.

The quality of teaching and the achievement of pupils were described as good, along with the standard of early years provision.

The academy's principal Allan Shephard said: "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised our unfaltering commitment to the children and families of Sandwell.."

Teachers' assessments were described as accurate and used effectively to ensure that all pupils made good progress, while provision for disabled pupils and those with special needs was also monitored well, also ensuring they made good progress.

Governors were also said to have an excellent knowledge of the quality of the teaching and how well pupils were doing.

Councillor in call on show

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help revive a horticultural show at Brunswick Park in Wednesbury.

A show ran at the park for many years – and Councillor Steve Melia, who was chairman of the committee for the Sandwell Horticultural Show, is looking to bring it back.

Councillor Melia said: "It would be great to bring the horticultural show back and to hold it in Brunswick Park."

Anyone interested should call him on 0121 502 5751.

New windows light up charity group

Happy after receiving money for improvements, Anthony McFarlane, Rachel McFee, and Councillor Jackie Taylor

A WINDOW of opportunity has opened for a charity to improve the facilities it offers to people suffering from sickle cell anaemia and Thalassaemia.

The Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Relief and Thalassaemia Support (Oscar) Sandwell received a £2,000 grant from Sandwell Council to help pay for ageing windows at the charity's Lodge Road centre in West Bromwich to be replaced.

Rachel McFee, the centre's manager, said the aim of installing the new uPVC double glazed windows was to help keep the premises warm as the previous wooden windows were draughty and often leaked water. She said people suffering from the conditions needed to be in a warm environment as cold conditions could aggravate their symptoms, which include severe pain caused by the normally round red blood cells becoming sickle-like in shape.

The donation was arranged through Sandwell councillor Jackie Taylor, who contacted the council's neighbourhood teams to provide the funding.

Miss McFee said the centre provided £1,500 from its own funds. She added: "There were leaks. The windows would not close. It was cold and we had our heating on all the time, but now our clients come in and say they really notice the difference."

The charity provides advice and guidance on issues surrounding sickle cell anaemia and Thalassaemia, and provides a service to sufferers from all ethnic backgrounds, although the majority are from Afro-Caribbean or African backgrounds."

Councillor Taylor is also organising a fun day to raise money for the charity Women's Aid, which works to end domestic violence, takes place at Oak House in West Bromwich on Saturday, April 18, between 11am and 3pm.

Chiefs put freeze on tax for a fifth year

COUNCIL tax in Sandwell has been frozen for the fifth year running – despite what councillors called 'unprecedented attacks' on public services.

Deputy leader of the borough's Labour-run council, Steve Eling, said the Government would not be allowed to 'penalise the people of Sandwell' at a budget meeting which took place on Tuesday night.

Councillors also rejected a proposed 2.2 per cent pay rise, saying it would be inappropriate given the level of austerity being 'forced' on people.

The authority has to make cuts of £63 million by 2017.

Funding from central government has dropped by £122m in the six years to 2015/16.

Councillor Eling admitted tough decisions had been made but that 'careful and prudent' use of resources had allowed the council to 'weather the storm'.

He said taking sensible decisions such as selling off buildings and cutting agency staff had allowed the authority to retain services that would otherwise have been lost.

He said: "We have had to take some tough decisions that in better times we wouldn't have taken."

Trees at park are cut back

TREE felling has started in Lightwoods Park as part of its £5 million restoration. The work will focus on diseased trees at the site in Bearwood.

Also, Grade II-listed Lightwoods House, which dates from 1791, will be brought back into public use for community meetings, training and functions.

And the drinking fountains, 19th century bandstand, Shakespeare Garden, walls and railings and a pond will also be spruced up.

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CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Sandwell who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlie Benton: 01384 353201
charlie.benton@expressandstar.co.uk

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Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453, e-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising:
Nicky Cope
01902 319573
Email nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Property:
Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 4444331
E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Jayne La Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465344
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Classified:
Tel: 01902 317878

Classified trade:
Tel: 01902 319191

Distribution:
Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Wolverhampton
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Services await watchdog's report

INSPECTORS have concluded a month-long review of under-fire children's services in Sandwell, leaving councillors hoping they will no longer be classed 'inadequate'.

Sandwell Council was hit with the rating by education watchdog Ofsted in 2013 after it was said to lack a stable management team and rely too heavily on agency staff.

It recently said it had cut agency staff use to less than 10 per cent as it prepared for Ofsted's four-week visit.

The Ofsted visit came weeks after a review by the Local Government Association which still found areas in need of improvement. Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Council, said: "Ofsted finished their inspection last week and we are now waiting for their report.

"We are not able to comment until they publish it. We will get the opportunity to see a draft report before it is made public."

Ofsted began its latest inspection of Sandwell's safeguarding and social care services for children and young people on January 28. The council believes it has 'radically' overhauled the way it works with children and families and that its systems are better. The authority is hoping to have at least moved from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement' when the report is published.

The Local Government Association carried out an independent review in November and found good progress had been made. But it said the service was missing opportunities to learn from complaints, feedback and examples of good practice.

1,000 fail to get their preferred school choice

ONE in four children in Sandwell have failed to secure a place at their first choice secondary school, according to the lastest figures.

Some 74 per cent of pupils had been allocated a place at their preferred school this September – leaving around 1,000 youngsters disappointed. A total of 425 pupils were instead offered a place at the school put down as their second choice, while 187 got their third favourite choice.

More than 350 children – 10 per cent – were not offered a place at any of their top three schools.

Parents across the country found out on Monday which schools their children would be going to on what was dubbed National Offer Day. The number of children accepted at their first choice school in Sandwell is below the national average of 85 per cent. Figures suggest more parents in cities and heavily populated areas were left disappointed.

A council spokesman said: "Parents can put down six schools in Sandwell, so the number who got either first, second or third is quite high.

"While one in four didn't get their first school, nearly 90 per cent got one of their top three. Some schools are heavily subscribed, which affects the outcome. We would also remind parents there is an appeals process."

Pupils offered a place at their preferred school in Dudley was slightly higher, but at 82 per cent still lower than the national average.

Walsall Council will not be releasing its figures until tomorrow.

A Department for Education spokesman said: "Since 2010 the Government has invested more than £5 billion to create more than 445,000 new school places – more than double the amount invested in the previous four years – and last year over 95 per of parents got one of their top three choices."

Mayor's call for support on big night

SANDWELL'S Mayor is inviting people to his Big Night Out variety show to raise money for Sandwell Women's Aid.

Speaking at Tuesday's full council meeting, Councillor Derek Rowley said the event at Wednesbury Town Hall promised lots of talented performers.

Musicians, dancers, a comedian and a magician will take to the stage on Saturday March 28, from 6-10pm.

Tickets cost £6 and are now on sale for the night – call 0121 569 3076 or 0121 556 4914 to book.

Acts include headliner Jasun Watkins, a Boy George comedy impersonator, as well as Deckchair Circus performing Beatles and Stone Roses covers, the Brandhall Choir, magician Gary Hadley and Tegan singing songs by Adele.

Councillor Rowley said: "It's the 7th year of the Mayor's annual show and I'm really looking forward to it.

"Sandwell Women's Aid supports thousands of women, men and children a year.

"They do such a good job for people facing domestic abuse and other problems – so the show is in a very good cause."

Golfer Jamie to coach at Open

Open season – Jamie Cundy at Dudley Golf Club, off Turners Hill, Rowley Regis

A GOLFER is looking forward to rubbing shoulders with some of the game's biggest stars after being chosen to coach at the Open Championship.

Jamie Cundy will be heading to the prestigious tournament at St Andrews, the only one of golf's majors which held on British soil, in the summer.

The 46-year-old professional, who joined Dudley Golf Club, based in Rowley Regis, last September, will coach spectators during free sessions as the top players compete for the Claret Jug. Mr Cundy has competed in regional tours during almost three decades playing the sport. It will be the third consecutive year he has coached at the Open. He said: "Tim Henman came up for a lesson, but he was pretty good so he didn't need much teaching.

"It is an amazing experience. Last year at Hoylake in Liverpool we saw some of the pros arrive in the evening and bumped into Robbie Williams and George Clooney in the bar."

Tributes for MEP at St Peter's memorial

Former MEP Philip Bradbourn

TRIBUTES have been paid to 'no nonsense' West Midlands MEP Philip Bradbourn, who died following a battle with cancer.

Mr Bradbourn OBE, 63, served as Conservative MEP for the West Midlands since 1999. On Monday a memorial service was held in his honour at St Peter's Collegiate Church in Wolverhampton.

Among those in attendance was Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, who gave a eulogy. He knew Mr Bradbourn for more than 40 years having joined the Young Conservatives at roughly the same time as him. Mr Bradbourn's fellow West Midlands Conservative MEP Anthea Mcintyre said he had always 'stood up' for the region.

"He grew up in a council house in Glebefields Road, in Tipton, and worked tirelessly for the West Midlands and the Conservatives," she said. Mr Bradbourn was born in Tipton in 1951 and educated at Tipton Grammar School. He was awarded the OBE in 1994 for public and political service.

Philip Bradbourn died on December 19, 2014.

Pallet fire at derelict site

ARSONISTS are responsible for a fire at a derelict factory in Rowley Regis. Fire crews were called to the factory on Doulton Road shortly after 4pm on Sunday.

Watch Commander Justin Bayliss, from Haden Cross, said: "Somebody had obviously broken into the building and set fire to some pallets inside. We have been to this building three or four times in the past few years. We were able to put the fire out swiftly.

"We always like to repeat that it is dangerous to play around in derelict factories."

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Nearly £2k a year is spent by workers

WORKERS in the Midlands are spending an average of £1,920 a year on 'trivial purchases' at work. A new survey reveals people spend an average of £40 a week on small purchases including coffee, breakfast and lunch, impulse buys while on their lunchbreak and after-work drinks with colleagues.

When it comes to buying food on the go, 28 per cent of workers in the Midlands spend £6 to £10 on breakfast, with a further 28 per cent spending up to £10 on lunch throughout the week.

Also 22 per cent of workers buy at least five coffees from Monday to Friday, costing on average £2 each.

A survey by TopCashback.co.uk found that in addition to the weekly spend, half admit to making impulse purchases online and on the high street during their lunch breaks, spending an average of £10 each week.

Half of women in the Midlands admit to impulse buys, with 44 per cent spending £11 to £20 on average during lunch breaks throughout the week.

Just 15 per cent of workers in the Midlands say they go for after-work drinks with colleagues, however a third of those who do clock up an average spend of £11 to £20 throughout the week.

90s groups in Brum dates

A DOUBLE bill of bands who had a string of hits in the 1990s will be presented at a Birmingham club.

Shed Seven and The Inspiral Carpets will be appearing at the O2 Academy in Horsefair, Bristol Street, on December 18.

Britpop group Shed Seven, who reformed in 2007, will be performing favourites including Going for Gold, Disco Down and Chasing Rainbows. The Inspiral Carpets, best known for This Is How It Feels and Dragging Me Down, were originally part of the Madchester scene.

Museum in plea

BLACK Country Living Museum is looking for more volunteers to join its ranks of re-enactors, and people to help behind the scenes. The site has more than 60,000 objects in its collections. Details are available on the website bclm.com/volunteer or by calling 0121 557 9643.

Cyclists complete first leg of challenge

Brendon Batson is interviewed pitch side

MORE than a dozen cyclists were celebrating a goal of their own kind as they marked a Premier League clash by completing a gruelling cycle trek to help raise funds for charity. Seventeen cyclists made their way into The Hawthorns on Saturday during West Bromwich's victorious home match against Southampton to mark the completion of a 152-mile trip from the away side's home at St Mary's Stadium.

The mission was the first part of the Tri Albion Challenge which is a set of three challenges designed to raise much-needed funds for the Foundation. Cyclists who took part included West Bromwich Albion legend Brendon Batson who played more than 170 times for the Baggies in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Also doing the trip was local fundraising celebrity 'Blind Dave' Heeley and blind paralympian Darren Harris.

Wheelchair

The group left Southampton on Thursday in the hope to raise money for the Albion Foundation – the registered charity and community arm of The Hawthorns club.

Joining the cyclists were Albion Foundation staff members with Paul Hunt, disability co-ordinator for the Foundation, completing the challenge in his wheelchair.

And their challenge was appreciated by thousands as a huge crowd gave them a rapturous applause during a half-time lap of honour. West Bromwich later recorded a 1-0 win thanks to an early strike by Saido Berahino.

It is hoped to raise £50,000 for the disability department of the Foundation which will ensure that they can continue to reach the 500-plus disabled athletes they currently coach every week. For more information visit http://thealbionfoundation.co.uk.

Protest over town's police station front desk closure

CAMPAIGNERS staged a protest outside a police station in the Black Country just hours before its front desk closed to the public for the final time.

Wednesbury Police Station was among the first batch of stations to be affected by changes which will see 27 front desks closed across the West Midlands.

Concerned residents made their feelings clear about the decision in Wednesbury, holding signs and placards aloft displaying the words 'save our police station'.

Counters have also closed in Old Hill and Tipton.

Police chiefs say the closures are necessary to protect police numbers in the face of central Government funding cuts which have already seen the number of police officers reduced by 16,000. But campaigners fear the elderly will feel more isolated and people who no longer have a station nearby will be reluctant to report crime.

The nearest station where they can access a front desk will now be in West Bromwich. Pensioner Maggie Dorsett, of Kendrick Street, Wednesbury, said: "We see more crime in this area now.

"There will be nowhere to go, the telephone system is rubbish. About 18 months ago I was mugged and I got something done about it but if people can't feel safe they are going to be tied to their home more and more."

Wednesbury councillor Elaine Costigan said she was hopeful the decision could be overturned if Labour get into government. "We are totally against the closure. We are showing them they can't just do what they want," she said.

Police's use of Tasers is highlighted

POLICE threatened a 13-year-old boy in Sandwell with a Taser after he threw a knife at his grandmother, it has been revealed.

The incident was among 46 cases that saw officers draw stun guns on children in the West Midlands last year. Of those 46, Tasers were fired at 10 to 17 year olds on eight occasions.

The youngest child to have a Taser fired at him was 14. He had been armed with a hammer.

The Sandwell teenager was not fired at.

But police chiefs have defended officers' use of tasers on children, saying that though the figures could appear 'shocking', each case involved a child who posed a threat to officers or the public.

In three quarters of cases, they were drawn from holsters as a deterrent rather than actually fired.

West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent Stuart Johnson said tasers were 'not drawn lightly' and all officers armed with them had undergone 'detailed training'.

Fan Jack's Baggies bonus for 107th

Jack Jones, aged 107, with Baggies captain Darren Fletcher and former West Brom player Tony Bomber Brown

A Baggies superfan who recently celebrated his 107th birthday was given the VIP treatment at the Hawthorns and presented with a special personalised shirt for his dedication.

Jack Jones, who is one of the oldest men in the country, was given the gift as he watched his beloved Albion beat Southampton on Saturday. Jack, who has followed Albion since he was 12, said the gift was "absolutely out of this world".

He met Albion captain Darren Fletcher and Baggies legend Tony 'Bomber' Brown and was presented with a personalised shirt – 'Jack 107' – a signed ball in a mounted glass case and a signed shirt from the players, which his Stourbridge care home will auction to raise funds.

"It's been a pleasure to meet everybody," he said. "I just want to thank everybody who has helped make the day the kind of day it turned out to be. It was absolutely fantastic. It was absolutely out of this world."

Former lorry driver Jack, who lives in the Tudor Manor care home, made parts for planes during the Second World War. He said he has been a Baggies fan all his life.

Albion captain Darren Fletcher said: "Jack said he was humbled and honoured to have been here, but having met him it's us who should be humbled and honoured to have had him at the game. It was a real privilege to meet him and I'm so glad he was able to see us win."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premiere of film about Tipton due

FANS of film are invited to the premiere of a mini-movie shot in Tipton starring residents sharing their memories of the town. Film maker Geoff Broadway is showing 'Tipton – a short film' on April 9 at Tipton Library from 7-9pm.

Over the past few months Geoff has travelled around Tipton meeting local people.

Tickets cost £2 and include a glass of wine and some traditional Black Country refreshments with all money raised going to BUDS, Better Understanding for Dementia. Places can be reserved by calling 0121 557 1796.

Concert marks orchestra's third

THE People's Orchestra will celebrate its third birthday in style with a concert at West Bromwich Town Hall. The concert on April 19 will feature music voted for by the public.

The group, which uses the town hall as its base, gives musicians across the region the chance to be a part of an orchestra.

Backed by an Arts Council grant.

Tickets for the concert cost £10 for adults, £7 with concessions and £5 for under-16s.

For more details about the orchestra visit www.thepeoplesorchestra.com

Bilston date for blues star Joanne

RISING Black Country-born blues star Joanne Shaw Taylor is returning for a gig in the summer.

The Wednesbury-born singer and guitarist, who now lives in Detroit, will be supported by Virgil & The Accelerators at the Robin2 in Bilston on July 25.

Tickets costing £17.50 have just gone on sale, her latest album, The Dirty Truth, was released to critical acclaim in September

She was discovered by Eurythmics guitarist Dave Stewart after a charity gig.

Actress Carroll's life remembered

THE life of Hollywood actress Madeleine Carroll will be in the spotlight during a theatre company's performance on Saturday.

Hannah Graham in partnership with London based company UNTitled Theatre will present Collidoscope at Central Library in West Bromwich.

It is described as a genre breaking, part autobiographical piece. It starts at 7.30pm. Call 0121 569 4904.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

NO, I'm not a racist. I just like throwing black people off trains. The more we learn about the Chelsea fans in the Paris Metro, the stranger it gets.

FOR 800 years the Black Death has been blamed on rats. Now, scientists in Norway believe the plague was spread by gerbils, not rats. We are collectively guilty of eight centuries of historic rat abuse. It is time for royal pardons, an apology in Parliament, compensation and a full public inquiry with a sympathetic chairman. Over to you, Roland.

THE most wince-making moment in Malcolm Rifkind's chat with bogus lobbyists is when he declares that, because he is a former foreign secretary, he can arrange "useful access" to ambassadors everywhere. I doubt it. There is nothing as ex as an ex-minister. Ambassadors want to talk to today's supremo, not yesterday's man. Messrs Rifkind and Straw might get invited to the ambassador's party – but only to hand out the sweeties. Why, Malcolm, you are spoiling us with these Ferrero Rocher . . .

BACK in 1969 the hit by Blue Mink, Melting Pot, was the last word in politically-correct sentiment, cheerfully looking forward to a time when all the races would be mixed into one coffee-coloured world. Part of the blend would be "Curly Latin kinkies, mixed with yellow Chinkees." A few days ago, the local radio station BBC Three Counties played a few lines of Melting Pot before presenter Iain Lee warned listeners: "I think it might be a little bit racist now" and pulled it. The mistake we always make is assuming that today's progressive attitudes are the last word and will endure for ever. They won't. Just as we wince at Melting Pot, so our grandchildren will be horrified at the things people said and did back in 2015. Today's well-meaning liberals are tomorrow's figures of scorn.

JOHN Prescott's promotion to become Ed Miliband's climate-change boss reinforces my hunch that Labour is aiming to win the General Election with the votes of people who cannot remember anything that happened more than five years ago.

I EXPECTED the angry tirade from older readers at my suggestion that pensioners have never had it so good. But I was shocked by the reader who wants to see rampant inflation "so my money in the bank will earn more," even though he accepts younger people with mortgages would have to pay for it. Ah, the dignity of the elderly.

AND if pensioners don't think they've never had it so good, when was it better?

THINGS to do on a rainy day. I picked up an old, much-thumbed copy of Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome which fell open at the tale of the great German singer Herr Slossenn Boschen. It is too long to explain here but is one of the funniest anecdotes in the English language. But when you read it, because the language is so polished, you tend to assume the writer was a middle-class Londoner with a posh accent. Jerome was born in Walsall and, to his dying day, spoke with what one observer called "a Black Country snarl."

THE problem with men of God dabbling in politics is that they are so accustomed to their word being law that they don't expect people to question it. But we live in questioning times and, for those online, questioning has never been quicker and easier. So when the Church of England piously declared that no-one should earn less than the "decent" £7.85 per hour living wage it took only a few minutes to reveal that some cathedral jobs pay a measly £6.50 an hour. Blessed are the unwired for they shall not Google.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

£115,000 revamp of locks nears end

A £115,000 revamp of historic canal locks is nearing completion.

The locks have been repaired for the last four months on the Tame Valley Canal near Great Barr.

The works involved completely draining each of the locks so that the Trust's specialist teams could get to the bottom of the canal and adjust and refit the lock gates. The team also carried out essential repairs to the 200-year-old brick walls, repointing and replacing sections of damaged brickwork that has, over time, worn away from boat impact and water damage.

Ian Lane, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "This stretch of the Tame Valley Canal is extremely popular with boaters as they explore the canals around Birmingham and the Black Country. With so many boats passing through, our lock gates do get bashed about a bit so we've used this winter period, when there are fewer boats travelling on the canal, to make sure the locks are watertight and working properly."

Richard Parry, chief executive of the Canal & River Trust, says: "The Canal & River Trust cares for a remarkable network of historic waterways which are still working just as they were designed to 200 years ago. Keeping them open and safe requires a huge amount of planning, investment and craftsmanship and involves a wide range of experts, from civil engineers and hydrologists to heritage experts and ecologists. This winter we are spending £45 million on essential repairs and restorations and routine maintenance."

Medical centres merge plan is urged for town

THREE medical surgeries in Great Barr, which between them care for more than 11,000 patients have revealed plans to merge and create a medical centre.

The surgeries are seeking funding for the new centre via the Government's Primary Care Infrastructure Fund. The proposals have been put forward by Parkhouse Surgery, Pages Lane Surgery and Sundial Lane Surgery.

by Charlie Benton

It is thought that the new, combined surgery will allow doctors to provide more appointments, as well as extended opening hours, and additional health services to meet the needs of their patients.

Senior partner at Parkhouse Surgery, Dr Pri Hallan, said: "This is a tremendously exciting project for Great Barr – an area that traditionally hasn't had the same investment in healthcare facilities as other parts of Sandwell.

Decades

"The other partners and I have worked hard to deliver this project for our patients, who we feel deserve the best possible facilities.

"This project will allow us to meet their needs, in a fit-for-purpose building. We have a well-developed vision for how the best healthcare can be provided, and would like to provide services which bring care closer to our patients, particularly the elderly. We are also excited about the opportunity to work more closely with our healthcare colleagues and commissioners to support the NHS in delivering an efficient and integrated service that provides the very best care for all."

The practices currently serve the community from three separate buildings, which Dr Hallan said are no longer fit for purpose, especially with the growing number of vulnerable patients in the area.

No site has been chosen to house the new building and a total project cost has not been announced.

MP for West Bromwich East, Tom Watson, said: "For too long, residents in Great Barr have been ignored by successive NHS bodies, who could provide the capital funding to make this project a reality. I hope Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England will look favourably upon this excellent proposal."

Walking views sought

EFFORTS to get more people in Sandwell to leave their cars behind and enjoy walking are being drawn up in a five-year master plan. People are being asked for their views on the plan which aims to increase the number of people walking for pleasure, to school and to work.

The proposed plan includes developing quality walking routes, information on existing walks and encouraging more people to walk to school, work and for leisure.

People can find out more about the strategy and take part in the consultation by visiting www.sandwell.gov.uk/walkingstrategy. All responses need to be in by March 27.

Gordon's double stirs it up

Is this the real Gordon Ramsay at work?

Or is this him keeping a close eye on the chef?

CAN you tell which one of these two fiery blond haired men is celebrity TV chef Gordon Ramsay? People in Streetly were left scratching their heads when Martin Jordan, the F-Word chef look-a-like, turned up at a charity fundraiser.

Mr Jordan made the guest appearance to meet staff and visitors at the Little Bengal, in Blackwood Road, for the event in aid of St Giles Hospice. The Indian and Bangladeshi restaurant held the event after reopening following a £24,000 revamp.

The free event raised more than £200 in public donations while staff generously gave half-a-day's wages to the total to take the amount to above £500.

Jamal Ahmed, manager at the Little Bengal restaurant said that some customers thought the Hell's Kitchen chef's double Mr Jones was the real deal. "Martin was absolutely great, people really enjoyed it. You really can't tell the different between him and Gordon – he even talks like him its crazy," he said.

He added: "We thought it would be something a bit different and eye-catching." The Ramsay doppelganger has made a living out of his facial similarities to the TV chef, appearing on shows like Louie Spence's Showbusiness, The Chris Moyles Quiz Show and reaching the semi-final of talent show Britain's Got Talent as part of the 'The Chippendoubles'.

Mr Jordan has even worked with the man himself on a series of television adverts as well as featuring on Gordon Ramsay's Cookalong live show. The real celebrity is on the left, Mr Jordan is on the right.

Volunteer call to join panel over education

VOLUNTEERS are needed to serve on a panel dealing with school admissions appeals. Sandwell Council is looking to recruit both lay and non-lay members – these are people with and without experience in the management or provision of education.

The role of a panel member is a voluntary one and no experience is necessary, However people who come forward will be required to undertake the necessary training before they are eligible to serve on the panel.

Members are consulted when the council is unable to give children their first choice with school places. If that's the case, parents can appeal the decision.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for Children's Services said: "It's unfortunate that we can't accommodate all parents with their first choice in schools. These panels are very important in the process of making sure the correct decision is made on where a child should be educated."

Training sessions will be held in April. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact the council by March 20 by email andrea_cowley@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 3171.

Geese cull is under fire

CAMPAIGNERS have demanded Sandwell Council rethink future cullings of Canada geese.

Representatives from the Save Our Sandwell Canada Geese (SOSCG) urged the council's Health and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee to recommend the use of non-lethal control in future, after more than 4,000 people signed a petition protesting the culls, carried out in parks in West Bromwich in 2013 and 2014.

Sandwell Council carried out the cull due to concerns over the health of visitors visiting the park.

Long closure due

A ROAD in Oldbury is to close for more than a month while works take place.

Severn Trent will start work in Century Road, near Sandwell and Dudley train station, from March 9. Sandwell Council said it expects it to reopen by April 17.

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Junction work for Brum due to start

WORK on some of the busiest junctions on Birmingham's ring road is due to start.

The £14 million project – part-funded by central government – focuses on improving the flow of traffic.

Contractors will shortly be starting work on improving road layouts at Bordesley Circus, Haden Circus and Curzon Circle. The preliminary stage will involve the removal of some trees and vegetation to enable road construction work to start in April or May.

Further projects to deliver improvements to Holloway Circus and Ashted Circus are in the pipeline with completion of the entire programme scheduled for Spring 2017.

Council bosses say it is inevitable that there will be some disruption to drivers, but most work will be done during off-peak times.

Councillor Tahir Ali, Birmingham City Council's cabinet member for development, transport and the economy, said: "Improvement to the ring road is vital to Birmingham's transport network. This important programme will not only reduce congestion, but will also support continued economic development and growth in the city."

Volunteers are wanted

SANDWELL residents looking for a new challenge are invited to volunteer at libraries in the borough.

People can get involved by organising craft activities and gaming groups to running film clubs and other activities.

Friends groups support the work of individual libraries and help with fundraising and planning and running activities.

Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "We thank everyone who is giving up their time." People are asked to call their local library or log on to www.sandwell.gov.uk

Mansion talk

MANSION Charlecote Park, in Warwickshire, will be the focus of the next meeting of the Walsall National Trust Association.The meeting will be at Blue Coat CE Academy, in Birmingham Road, Walsall, on March 11 at 7.30pm. For more details call 01922 452142.

Visitors spend £400m at festive markets

Key attraction – The German Market

MORE than five million people spent nearly £400 million at Birmingham's Christmas Markets – record figures for the hugely popular festive attraction.

The increasing success of the event, including its jam-packed traditional Frankfurt Christmas market serving up pretzels, schnitzels, bratwursts, and knoblauchbrot, pulled in a record 5.5m visitors.

That footfall figure is up 1.2m from 2012's market. This 28 per cent increase in visitor numbers contributed to a record consumer spend of £397m – nearly double the £201m generated in 2012 when figures were last calculated. The city's hotel trade also benefited, with an average occupancy rate of 84 per cent during the Christmas Markets programme, up from 79 per cent in 2012.

Birmingham's festive offer in 2014 saw its Christmas Markets – the largest of their kind in the UK – attract audiences from across Europe. They formed the centrepiece of an extensive festive programme that saw a host of events and activities take place across the region.

Councillor Ian Ward, deputy leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "These record-breaking visitor numbers demonstrate the quality and wide appeal of Birmingham's Christmas Markets. Our extensive festive programme has drawn visitors from across the UK and Europe, all of whom have enjoyed the city's retail and events offer, as well as the famous Birmingham welcome.

"The positive figures form an excellent base for 2015."

Birmingham is set to build upon the success of its Christmas Markets as it welcomes international visitors with a series of tourism trade delegations visiting the region in the first quarter of 2015.

Illegal immigrant locked up after benefits swindle

AN illegal immigrant who falsely claimed almost £100,000 in benefits while evading the authorities for more than 14 years has been jailed for four years.

Lillian Wade flew from Jamaica to Gatwick in 1999 but was only granted temporary admission into the UK on the condition she flew back the next day.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the 55-year-old, who lived at an address in Tipton, absconded and it was more than 14 years before she was caught.

During her time in the UK, she managed to fraudulently get two British passports and a job as a cleaner for Sandwell Council, where she worked for around four years, earning almost £30,000.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said an injury led to her leaving the role, but she went on to claim £99,729 in incapacity benefit, income support, employment and support allowance and disability living allowance.

The court heard that Wade began working for the council, using the identity of Yvette Logan, in 2000, and later claimed benefits using the same name. Mr Searle said the real Yvette Logan had been traced and had citizenship, adding: "She was not aware her details were being used by Wade."

Wade, who appeared via video link from Eastwood Park prison in Gloucestershire, admitted obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception by falsely representing she was a British citizen entitled to work in the UK and cheating the public revenue. She also admitted being in possession of an identity document with improper intention and possession of a false identity document with intent, relating to the passports.

Reminder on energy deals move

SANDWELL Council is reminding residents who changed their gas and/or electricity providers last year using Sandwell Energy Switch are now coming to the end of their current deal.

Those users whose current energy tariff is coming to an end need to register with the next round of the Sandwell Energy Switch scheme. And if they don't take action, they are likely to be moved automatically on to the energy provider's standard tariff which could be higher than their current rate.

Those who have already registered an interest in the February 2015 auction could make a potential average saving of up to £236 with 98 per cent of people able to make some savings on their current bills.

Registration for the next scheme starts on Wednesday March 25, and runs until midnight on May 18. People can register their interest for this scheme now at www.sandwell.gov.uk/energyswitch or by calling 0121 569 5396.

Lighting up time for new giant atrium

A view inside the completed Atrium Roof at the New Street Railway Station development, in Birmingham

NATURAL light has flooded the giant atrium at Birmingham New Street for the first time as demolition work comes to an end.

The stunning glass feature, which covers the size of a football pitch, will greet visitors to the station when its multi-million pound transformation is completed later this year along with the Grand Central shopping complex.

More than 6,000 tons of concrete has been removed from under the new atrium allowing light to shine on to the new concourse for the first time. Now the demolition work has been completed, new structures will be hung from the atrium steelwork so work can begin to attach the streamline cladding to the atrium's interior ready for the station's opening in September.

Network Rail's project director for Birmingham New Street,Chris Montgomery, said: "The completion of this work marks a huge milestone for the project. Building the atrium roof and removing such a large amount of concrete from the centre of the building was a huge feat of engineering."

Chris Montgomery, Grand Central development director, Richard Brown, said: "This is an exciting point in the Grand Central journey as we get closer to completing the major transformational change that the former Pallasades shopping centre has gone through. The work which has been going on behind the scenes and on site is truly incredible."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Park safely call from councillor

CONCERNS have been raised about parents double parking outside schools in the Black Country.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires has now pleaded with people to be more thoughtful on the school run at New Invention infants and juniors.

He said: "There are also those who see nothing wrong with double parking, parking across residents' drives and school entrances and resorting to foul language when challenged. My plea is – change your attitude. Spare a thought for others and park up safely."

Drivers are pulled over by officers

NINE drivers were pulled over during a police operation in Smethwick.

Officers launched the operation following concerns from members of the public about speeding in the area. Two vehicles were seized and towed away after their owners were found to be driving without insurance.

Five people were spotted using their mobile phones while at the wheel.

A further two motorists were handed fixed penalty notices for not wearing a seatbelt.

TV sales in vans are swooped on

PEOPLE selling televisions out of the back of vans at sites in Sandwell have been targeted in a trading standards operation.

Sandwell Council's trading standards officials said they had been tipped off.

They targeted people selling sets in a retail car park off Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, last week and from a van in Friar Park Road, Wednesbury.

Stalls set to open up for business

INDEPENDENT traders are uniting to stage a monthly market.

The event takes place on the first Saturday of every month in Abbey Road, Bearwood.

It is organised by the Mad as a Hatter Tea Party shop, and features up to 10 stalls selling crafts, jams and chutneys. The next event is on Saturday.

Dryer catches

A TUMBLE dryer caught fire at a home in Willenhall. It caused smoke logging to the property with three people inside, who received oxygen as a precaution, at just before 11.25pm last Monday.

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

A GROUP of around 200 of us stood in the driving rain on a cold night, but there was not a word of complaint.

Most of the crowd were made up of teenagers, who are not noted for being early risers, but there was not a murmur of dissent about having had to get up at 3.30 in the morning.

There is something about Auschwitz which puts our everyday moans into perspective.

Last week, the Holocaust Educational Trust took a party of youngsters from schools across the West Midlands to the notorious Nazi death camp in Poland, and it was a privilege to be able to join them.

Today, many of us think we are reasonably well informed about what went on, but it is only when you stand in the locations where so many people came about their deaths that you can possibly comprehend the enormity of it all.

The scratch marks in the gas chambers, which had been designed to look like shower blocks, where the victims of the Holocaust would have tried to cling to life as they breathed their last.

The masses of human hair, mercilessly shaven from the prisoners to make the lining of soldiers' trousers.

The clinical, Germanic efficiency, which saw every item of the victims' possessions fastidiously sorted and steam cleaned before being redistributed to new owners who were considered more in keeping with National Socialist ideals.

It is too much to try to understand how anybody's conscience would allow them to behave in this way, but everybody should visit Auschwitz at least once in their life.

❑❑❑❑❑

WHEN it was reported that new laws would be coming into force this week introducing new limits for drivers taking cough medicine it seemed bizarre.

To be honest my initial thought was it was just another example of politicians and police chiefs hammering motorists for that heinous crime – that is of just driving a car.

Yes we all know these things can make you a little drowsy, but stopping people at the side of the road, asking them if they have been taking cough mixture?

"Hello, hello, hello, is that Benylin I can smell on your breath, sir?"

But to be fair to the Old Bill, it seems they are not looking for people who take these substances for medicinal purposes. Apparently, there are people who take prescription medicine in large quantities just for the enjoyment of it.

The idiocy of mankind never ceases to amaze.

The Miners Statue at Brownhills High Street's island

Historian Carl Chinn at the Hamstead Miners

The Davy Lamp miners memorial in Hednesford

Memorials keep mining pride alive

ADAM BURLING takes a look at the memorials that have helped to keep mining alive despite pit closures

THEY are monuments to a bygone era when thousands of men toiled for long days in collieries across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

And though the mining industry has almost died out, memorials of all shapes and sizes are keeping its heritage alive.

Two are currently being planned in Staffordshire, as residents seek a way of paying tribute to the workers who spent their working lives down the pits.

And others have already been installed in Walsall Wood, Brownhills, Great Barr and Hednesford in recent years.

As the 30th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike was marked on Tuesday, the bitter dispute between Margaret Thatcher and the National Union of Mineworkers has been at the forefront of people's minds.

Communities were torn apart by the closures, with men who once had no trouble providing for their families suddenly struggling to make ends meet. Organisers say the memorials are giving villages and towns a sense of identity again.

The 55ft high replica pit head in Walsall Wood is believed to be the biggest mining memorial in the world.

Others bear the names of former pitmen, while the Davy Lamp memorial in Hednesford is surrounded by engraved paving slabs.

And there are also tragic tales lurking behind the fond memories, as scores of men died in accidents and disasters.

The desire to create a fitting tribute has also led to a dispute in Rugeley, with plans for a statue in the town delayed by a disagreement over the location.

The mining memorial in Walsall Wood, based just off Coppice Road

It has now been confirmed that the memorial will finally be unveiled on Globe Island in September.

The significance of mining to the Black Country and Staffordshire cannot be underestimated, with the Cannock Chase coalfields once supported 48 mines and the last, Littleton, shut in 1993. Only a pit wheel remains at the site now, in the shadow of the modern design of the Littleton Green Community School – providing a stark contrast between the area's past and future.

Council chiefs commissioned artist Andy De Comyn to produce four 9ft sculpted figures for Rugeley, to commemorate 80 miners who were killed underground at Brereton and Lea Hall collieries.

And in Hednesford, the final of 3,500 bricks was laid at the Davy Lamp memorial a year ago.

With a museum also dedicated to the town's mining heritage, Hednesford has plenty of pride in the role it played in the industry.

In the early part of the 20th century there were seven pits working in the area. But by 1975 only three collieries remained, providing employment for 5,200 men.

In December 1982 the last pit – West Cannock No.5 – known locally as the 'Tackeroo' ceased production.

Probably the most iconic of all the memorials in the Midlands is the 30ft steel-clad sculpture of a miner holding a lamp and pick axe that towers over Brownhills.

It was produced by artist John McKenna and has become a fixture on the landscape.

Mining was the main source of income for families in Brownhills until the last pit closed in the 1950s.

Brownhills was a hub of the industry, with at least 10 working pits there at its height.

The deaths of 144 men looms large over the history of Hamstead Colliery in Great Barr, where the memorial features an original coal tub on rails mounted on a brick plinth.

The worst accident was in March 1908 when a fire broke out in the pit, and though 250 men escaped, 25 perished - along with John Welsby, who was hailed a hero as he tried to save the others.

He was awarded an Edward VII medal and a local road, Welsby Avenue, was named after him.

For 100 years there was no visible memorial to the men who died, and the colliery as a whole.

But the Hamstead Miners Memorial Trust was set up in 2002 with the task of raising the necessary cash.

A replica of winding gear from the Walsall Wood colliery that stood close to the site, it was a part of a £40,000 project that also included sculptures of miners.

And it has attracted interest across the globe – achieving exactly what Mr Perry set out to do.

He said he wanted to create something to make people talk about the miners for generations to come. And it proves the links with our past are showing no signs of breaking.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

£67,000. That's a lot of money to get every year, isn't it? OK, it's not the salary Wayne Rooney would even bother to lace up his boots for. But it's still not a bad whack.

MPs have argued the toss over second jobs and whether or not they should be allowed to do them. It all seemed to stem from the sting on former Foreign Secretaries Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Jack Straw over 'cash for access'.

Labour will ban all its MPs from second jobs. Is that really necessary? What Sir Malcolm and Mr Straw are accused of is using their positions as MPs in return for money. Both deny any wrongdoing. And that's rather a far cry from what our MPs in the West Midlands do.

Aside from a few hundred quid here and there for appearances on TV and radio programmes, those who make money on the side do it in the professions they held before they became MPs.

Stone MP Sir Bill Cash, for example, made a tidy £25,000 doing 70 hours work as a solicitor. Stafford's Jeremy Lefroy made considerably less doing a few more hours in the African coffee, cocoa and management services company of which he is a director.

Property

Some MPs have a few shares. Others rent out a property here and there. It's not exactly the 2009 expenses scandal is it? But we know about it because the rules require them to declare all this in the Register of Members' Interests.

Ultimately MPs have to make sure they do their duty and serve their constituents. But is it any worse doing a bit of work here and there when Parliament's in recess when compared with being a minister? After all, those MPs carrying the red boxes and getting driven around in the Jaguars still have constituencies just like the backbenchers.

There's another reason, too, that I'd rather see people like Sir Bill and Mr Lefroy keep their hand in with their businesses. For a start it means they keep up their experience outside of the Westminster bubble.

There are enough MPs as it is who have been career politicians – going from university to some form of advisory role and then on to a candidacy – without limiting even further the things they can do. And with a General Election looming, if an MP in a marginal seat severed all ties with their old business I wouldn't think they were dedicated, I'd think they were mad.

I'm going into self-imposed exile as the third series of the American version of House of Cards has been made available on Netflix. So I'm going to forget about the scheming in the Commons by watching the scheming in the White House instead.

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Does borough really need a mayor?

WHILST I am an advocate for tradition and history, I fear it is something that must be forced aside when Sandwell Council is in such a poor financial state.

Having to find £22 million in cuts by 2017-18, I find it wasteful and distasteful that the borough insists on continuing to parade a paid Mayor each year.

This year Councillor Derek Rowley of Great Bridge has the honour of being paid £23,000 on top of his councillor's allowance of almost £11,000.

Add on top of this the cost to run his car with a chauffeur and the celebratory meal at the start of his tenure then this post becomes financially quite wasteful.

I am sure this role can be altered and cut back to make the excesses of the appointment seem a little less harsh to people who are struggling on the bread line or having to make trips to various food banks strewn across the Mayor's borough.

R KEELING
Great Barr

Staffords event for St George

I WOULD like to invite all members of the Staffordshire Regimental Association, their friends, families, any former Stafford and our new Mercian Regimental family to the St George's Day celebrations taking place in Tamworth on Saturday April 25.

Every year we hold a free St Georges Day event which features a host of activities for all the family including The Grand Medieval Joust!

This year we have a very special addition to the day. We will be hosting the promotion ceremony of the Staffordshire Regiment mascot, Cpl Watchman V, in the Castle Grounds. We anticipate the ceremony will take place on the Lower Lawn of the Castle Grounds at around 11.50 am.

As a newspaper covering a huge area that recruited soldiers to the Staffordshire Regiment (Staffordshire and the Black Country) and with strong links to the history of the Staffordshire Regiment, I know there will be many Stafford's and their families reading this letters page.

ROBERT PRITCHARD
Deputy Leader of Tamworth Council

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Planners are not acting for public

I WOULD like to air my disgust at Sandwell planners' foregone conclusion style of approval for the Red House Mansion (residential conversion), and the resubmission 'garden grab' development of four detached houses in Great Barr.

What will it take to get this council to stop being pro the out of town development companies and start listening and acting in favour of the concerns of the tax paying electorates?

I unlike some of the Red House objectors was never in favour of the Red House Mansion being used for anything other than a public amenity, let alone boxing it in with a further six houses and associated access and parking. Sadly, the council has again been dazzled by pound signs.

In respect of the resubmission 'garden grab' application, the planning committee not once but twice previously unanimously rejected the very same application. The developer, Piper Homes then appealed to the planning inspectorate and got the decision overturned in December 2011.

Piper Homes then allowed the three years' time limit granted by the planning inspectorate to develop this garden land to lapse, resulting in the latest resubmission being contradictorily approved by the planning committee, who buckled at the first hurdle due to their fear of going against the inspectorate's 2011 decision. For me this now begs the question why bother having a planning committee at all?

R MCMANUS
Great Barr

Scandal of jailed Harris

I COULD not believe my eyes when I saw the heading 'Harris still earning millions from his cell' in the E&S, Feb 16.

This vile beast is earning up to £1,300 every day, talk about justice, he is living the life of Riley. His fellow inmates make £7 a day doing chores (they should not be paid for this either), they are supposed to be in there as a punishment for crimes they have committed.

What is the matter with our justice system?

Rolf Harris is a paedophile and in my opinion should be left to rot in jail. Talk about him serving time, this pervert is I guess laughing himself to sleep every night and thinking what fools we all are, and thinking about his millions.

A WILLIAMS
Tipton

Old rivalry is still going

WITH the draw for the 6th Round FA Cup drawing together Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion, I thought it was strange that some 130 years ago in the 1884-85 season the 3rd Round draw was Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion.

I am pleased to report that after a no goal draw, Albion won the replay 3-0 but no doubt we will get a lot of talk off the Match of the Day pundits about the 'big clubs'.

But let us remember that this particular local rivalry started with this 1884-85, 3rd round match at FA Cup level and of course it was rejoined in 1888 at Football League level and yes still going strong.

E J JOHNSON, Warley

NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineers find hole in the canal

ENGINEERS who drained a section of canal in Birmingham city centre to find the cause of a leak have discovered a large hole in the bed.

Hundreds of fish were carried to safety as water was removed from the canal by Gas Street Basin, near the Mailbox.

Water was discovered escaping from the bottom of an historic aqueduct into a disused railway tunnel below the stretch of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Investigations into what caused the hole in the bed of the canal and if it is the only source of the leak will continue.

Lawrence Tall, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "We are now investigating how best to repair the leak."

Birthday concert by orchestra

THE People's Orchestra celebrates its third birthday in style with a concert at West Bromwich Town Hall. The concert on Sunday 19 April will feature music voted for by the public. Tickets cost £10 for adults, £7 with concessions and £5 for under-16s.

The group, which uses the town hall as its base, gives musicians across the region the chance to be a part of an orchestra.

Backed by an Arts Council grant, it's made up of experienced musicians who don't have the time or desire to commit to joining a professional orchestra – log onto www.thepeoplesorchestra.com

Recorded crime down by 150 for year in borough

NEARLY 150 fewer crimes were recorded for Sandwell in December compared with the year before – a fall of nine per cent, new figures have revealed.

Latest information from the Safer Sandwell Partnership shows there were 1,434 recorded crimes over the month – 141 less than at the same time in 2013.

by Lee Watton

Officials said the number just fell short of the lowest recorded month for crime since 2006. That was in February 2013 when 1,428 offences were recorded.

And the figures also showed the traditional trend for a rise in house burglaries during the period had also been bucked.

Usually the numbers increase from November to February. But the figures for last month show the number of burglaries was 26 per cent lower than in the previous year.

Officials from the partnership said they believe the fall was due to patrols targeting burglary hotspots around the borough.

SmartWater property marking has also been cited in the reduction of burglaries in the area.

The partnership said business crime was also down for the period and there had also been a drop in the number of thefts from motor vehicles.

Police say this was aided by patrols looking for vehicles left unsecured and advising owners about crime prevention.

Thefts from petrol stations have also been targeted by patrols – with figures also falling in December.

Police said extra patrols had taken place in the main shopping areas around the borough.

They said licensing activity in the area had also been very strong with any locations showing signs of disorder or lack of control being targeted at a very early stage as well as working with licensees.

The partnership is made up of a number of organisations including Sandwell Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust.

It also acts as the police and crime board for the Sandwell area.

Pensioner hurt in shop wall crash

Emergency services personnel at the scene of the crash after a grey Nissan Micra hit a supermarket wall

AN elderly motorist was seriously hurt when her car struck a wall at a supermarket in Oldbury.

Emergency service crews cut the roof off the grey Nissan Micra to get the 83-year-old woman out after she suffered leg injuries in the incident in the top car par at Sainsbury's, in Bristnall Hall Road.

It is believed that the driver accidentally hit the wall has she tried to manoeuvre the automatic vehicle from a bay in the car park near the cash machines at about 11 am on Saturday.

Watch Commander Eve Greenhouse, of Oldbury Fire Station, said: "We don't know how it happened, but the elderly lady accidentally ran her car into the wall at the front of Sainsbury's. She was badly hurt.

"We had to take the roof off to extricate her. Her son was in the car with her at the time, but by the time we got there he had managed to get himself out of the car." The injured pensioner was taken to Sandwell General Hospital for treatment.

Dealer had stun guns to protect his trade

A TEENAGE drug dealer owned stun guns disguised as mobile phones to protect his trade, a court heard.

Jake Rogers, 18, of Phillip Road, Great Bridge was spotted by police among a group of three men in a street and while the officers were able to stop and take details of two of the men, the other person fled.

Stephen Bailey, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court that a short while later the officers searched a hedge on March 27 and discovered the stun gun disguised as a mobile phone, which was useable and discharged.

Rogers' fingerprint was found on the gun. On April 15, the police visited Rogers' home, where they found the defendant and another such stun gun and a knuckle duster, air rifle and 110 grams of cannabis.

Mr Bailey said Rogers, who pleaded guilty to possessing firearms and cannabis with intent to supply and one count of common assault, had kept the weapons 'to protect his trade.' He added the assault related to an attack on an ex-girlfriend he saw in the street.

She noticed him and tried to avoid his gaze by pulling a hood she was wearing because it was raining further over her face, but he saw her and threw a hot cup of coffee over her, causing a red mark on her face. Rogers will serve two years deten-

In safe hands, as Craig gets tickets off Foster

WHEN Baggies fan Craig Hughes put a desperate appeal out on Twitter for two tickets to see his beloved team play rivals Aston Villa in the FA Cup, he never really thought anything would materialise.

But just hours later, he was tweeted back by none other than West Bromwich goalkeeper Ben Foster who offered to give him two tickets.

Mr Hughes, who now lives in London, said Foster was his 'hero' after the kind act.

He said: "I put the tweet out on Thursday morning. Before that I'd asked friends if they were selling any tickets but had not got anywhere.

"The people I mentioned in my tweet retweeted my message. I'm guessing Ben saw it retweeted.

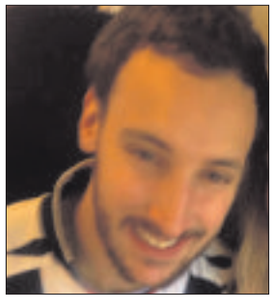
"When I saw what he had tweeted I was shocked and surprised. I didn't believe it at first. I had to follow him on Twitter and then we sent each other some direct messages.

"I told him to let me know which charities he supported so I could give the price of the tickets to charity but he said not to worry."

Mr Hughes was unable to buy tickets from the box office for the FA Cup Sixth Round clash at Villa Park on Saturday, as they were only on sale to season ticket holders.

But he was desperate to see his team play in the cup against rivals Villa after watching them beat West Ham in the previous round.

Mr Hughes was born in Wolverhampton and went to Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall. His father supported the Baggies and he went to his first game when he was just six years old.



Delighted – fan Craig Hughes

Ben Foster of West Bromwich Albion

The tweet from England goalie Ben Foster to Baggies fan Craig Hughes

"I'm pretty much obsessed with the Baggies," he added. "I watch them when I can. I lived in Liverpool for a while but used to come back for games. I had a season ticket."

The 29-year-old who works in London as a product director at video ad tech company Unruly, said he was feeling positive about the cup game, predicting a 2-1 win for the Baggies.

He added: "Ben is a hero. There is too much of a gap between players and fans these days. It's pretty amazing what he's done."

Mr Hughes, whose family still live in the Black Country, said he was still deciding who to take to the match.

Foster, aged 31, who joined the Baggies in 2012, also has eight England international caps.

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Dozens of canalside homes are proposed

PLANS to build 60 homes in Tividale as part of a new canalside development have been revealed. The scheme is proposed for land at the rear of properties off Tipton Road.

Developer Cameron Homes Ltd believes the former refuse tip is the ideal location for new homes, alongside the Gower Branch Canal, because of nearby transport links and leisure services.

A design statement submitted to Sandwell Council planners, states: "The site is well-located in terms of transport links with the M5 in very close proximity which provides direct links to other regional motorways such as the M6, M42 and M40, with the A4123 also providing a link to Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

"The nearby Dudley Port train station also provides links to major employment areas. There are a good range of amenities close by with schools, leisure and retail all within a short distance from the site."

If approved the development would consist of two-bedroomed flats and three and four-bedroomed houses.

A total of 54 properties would be available on the open market with six reserved for social and intermediate rent.

By Richard Guttridge

Access for cars and pedestrians would be from Palmerston Drive and there would be 146 car parking spaces and 60 cycle spaces provided. A committee of Sandwell councillors will decide whether to grant planning permission when they meet on March 11.

Through discussions already held the council has been able to secure a £50,000 lump sum payment from the developers. The two hectacre site is currently a plantation area including several tree species and it has been agreed in principle to remove the trees to make way for the homes.

Hall of fame launched by young sports stars

Back from left, Jonathan Leko Kisolokele, aged 15, and Tyler Roberts, 16. Front, Mia Gill, 13 and Joe Fraser, 16

TALENTED sporting students have helped launch the Sandwell Academy Hall of Fame in its purpose-built PE block. The students, who have all represented the home nations at international level, reflect the Academy's strong sports specialism.

Students Jonathan Leko Kisolokele and Tyler Roberts play for England and Wales under 17s football teams respectively, with Tyler captaining the Welsh team. Both students are part of the West Bromwich Albion Academy programme.

Fourteen-year-old Mia Gill has a bright future ahead of her representing Great Britain in equestrian sports. She has been show jumping for eight years and has competed at the British Championships for the last two years.

Joe Fraser, 16, trains with City of Birmingham Gymnastics club and has been a constant member of the Great Britain junior team. He was part of the gold medal winning team at the European Championships last May.

Joe then topped off a fantastic 2014 by not only helping Great Britain win the team gold during the Autumn Cup International in Italy, but also winning three individual gold medals during the competition for parallel bars, the pommel horse and the floor exercise.

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Historian Carl starts as police museum patron

HISTORIAN Professor Carl Chinn is to be the patron of the West Midlands Police Museum, the force has announced.

The Express & Star columnist has agreed to be ambassador of the museum at Sparkhill police station following the death of former patron Lord Knights.

Police chiefs are hoping Professor Chinn's inspirational style and way of bringing history to life will help modernise the museum, which holds thousands of archive records, photographs and exhibits charting the social history of policing in the West Midlands from 1839.

Plans are being looked at to make some of the records available online. The museum's curator, ex-police officer Dave Cross currently heads a team of volunteers who keep the museum running, logging exhibits, carrying out research and arranging visits.

Unique

He said: "I'm honoured and delighted to become patron of this important museum. I want to pay tribute to Dave Cross and the team of volunteers who have worked so hard at bringing together this unique collection.

"I look forward to joining them in bringing to the fore this superb array of photos, documents, official records and memorabilia and ensuring that it is accessible to a wider audience."

Chief Superintendent Sally Bourner, chairman said: "It is fantastic news Carl has agreed to become patron, and we hope to draw on his knowledge and insight to help us take the museum forward and make it more accessible for people. We want the museum to establish a virtual archive so that people wanting to research the history of the police or members of their family can do so online.

Professor Carl Chinn, new patron of the West Midlands Police Museum

"There is a huge amount of information available at the museum, showing the social history of policing and it is important this is saved and stored in a way that people can access easily.

"Dave Cross and his colleague, former constable Deb Menzel, run the museum with passion and commitment and have given so much of their time and knowledge to keeping it going. We want to start transferring that knowledge to a digital format so it can be more easily accessed and used by people."

The museum, which is situated in the old magistrate's court at the Court Road police station, houses a fascinating collection of vintage memorabilia, showing how crime and policing has changed over the years.

There are vast numbers of rogues galleries showing Victorian prisoners arrested from everything from rabbit theft to murder, including details of the real life Peaky Blinders gang that operated in Birmingham. The museum also has an array of original police uniforms and equipment.

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Rachel's healthcare dream comes true

DETERMINED to overcome her challenges, Rachel Martin, from Great Barr, has successfully pursued her dream career in healthcare.

This is despite her vision being impaired because of retinoblastoma – a rare type of eye cancer.

Rachel, a 35-year-old physiotherapist in pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation, has been working at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH) for the past 12 years.

Rachel's main responsibility is to help patients, who have problems with their pelvic floor muscle, to regain the strength of their muscles and therefore avoid further complications in the future.

Rachel became interested in pelvic floor muscle rehabilitation when she saw how effective treatment made such an impact on patients' lives. She said: "Since pelvic floor dysfunction is a sensitive topic, many patients feel very emotional when visiting the clinic. However, enabling patients to share their concerns and empowering them to begin to address their individual problems make my job so rewarding."

Rachel is particularly proud of the service that the Trust is providing. She said the Trust provides a service that is easily accessible to members of the public. Patients can also self-refer themselves to the service by giving them a call via the number 0121 507 2664 to book an appointment with the Pelvic Floor Muscle/Continence clinic.

The clinic establishes strong connections with GPs, nurses and local health communities to ensure that information about the service is widely known and patients can easily find help that they need. Issues which can be helped include female and male incontinence affecting any age group, pregnancy-related pelvic girdle pain and painful sexual intercourse. Explaining why she wanted to become a physiotherapist, Rachel said: "When I was a child, I always knew that I wanted to become a healthcare professional.

"However, my impaired vision was quite a huge barrier for a career in healthcare. Fortunately, when I was being treated for my chest infection when I was young, I had the opportunity to be cared for by an excellent physiotherapist, who then inspired me to follow in her steps. I then took a degree in Physiotherapy.

"It is challenging to grow up with a permanent health condition, but I have tried my best not to let it hold me back. I think if there is a will, there is always a way and that is why I always try to succeed. I guess that attitude has guided me to going through my brain tumour surgery in 2012 and recovering from breast cancer in 2013. Living through these critical moments, I have learned to stop worrying about the future and start appreciating every day with my two children and my husband."

Rachel's heroes include a number of people, who have made so much difference to her life. Rachel said: "When I went through treatment for breast cancer, I received excellent care from a number of clinical teams at SWBH, including the Plastic Surgery Department, the Breast Unit and the Oncology team. They are my true heroes. They made my journey much easier and I am proud of the work that they do every day, and that I work for the same caring trust."

Outside work, Rachel enjoys spending her time with her family. Home is the centre of her life. She loves experiencing the world through the perspectives of her children as they inspire her to live more fully. Her family's support has been the main source of energy that gets her through her obstacles in life.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

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Joan's goodbye to major tours

FOCUS ON FOLK

By Danny Farragher

Joan Armatrading who is giving up major tours after many years on the road

CHART topping Brummie, Joan Armatrading is coming home as part of her last major tour when she will be playing Town Hall, Birmingham on Wednesday March, 25.

The good news is she is not retiring but the bad news, for those who haven't got their tickets, is the show is sold out, although it may be worth contacting the venue to see if there are any returns or cancellations.

Gretchen Peters will be on stage there on Saturday March 21, starting 8pm. Tickets are £21.50 and £26.50 plus the usual transaction fee which is £3 and charged on all bookings except when bought in person at the Town Hall or Symphony Hall Box office.

The Victoria Square venue then welcomes Irish songstress **Cara Dillon** who will be bringing her delicate and silken tones to the hall on Friday March, 27 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £21 plus the usual transaction fee.

Creatures

Singer/songwriter **Gren Bartley** is releasing his latest album this month called Magnificent Creatures and you can see him perform at The Woodman Folk Club which meets at Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford tomorrow, March 6. Members pay £6 and non members £1 more. Doors open at 8pm and the show starts around 8.30pm.

The following week on March 13 the club welcomes banjo virtuoso, if there is such a thing, **Dan Walsh**. Entry is £6 for members and £1 more for non-members. Walsh also has a new album out on March 16, called Incidents and Accidents.

Traditional musician and musical arranger **Nick Dow** is also coming to the canal side venue on March 27, tickets are £5 for members and again £1 more for non members.

A folk singer who's star is definitely on the rise and seems to be almost everywhere is **Kelly Oliver**, who will be sharing the bill at the Common Folk Club with **Nigel Bullock** on March 19 from 8.30pm. The club meets at the Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club in Walsall.

Heading back to the Second City, Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath welcomes one of the busiest and in-demand female folk artists, **Nancy Kerr**, on March 11.

Kerr is nominated for best folk singer and best album at this year's BBC Radio2 Folk Awards.

She will also be touring later on in the year with Martin Simpson and Andy Cutting on the back of a new album they have put together called Murmurs. Tickets are £13 and can vary depending upon whether you are a member and if you buy online. Doors open 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start.

You may remember her as the distinctive voice of Fairground Attraction but **Eddi Reader** has been carving out a solo career on the folk/acoustic circuit for many years and she is performing on March 28 at Biddulph Up in Arms, Staffs. Tickets are £22.50 and doors open at 6pm, the show starts at 8pm.Irish band, **The Fureys** will be at the New Alex Theatre on March 12. Tickets are £23.90 plus a £2.85 booking fee and the show starts 7.30pm.

More veterans of the folk circuit **Oysterband** will be at the Robin2 Bilston on Tuesday March 24. Tickets are £16 in advance or £18 on the night.

Seth Lakeman is bringing his solo show to the Slade Rooms, Broad Street, Wolverhampton on March 22. Tickets are £16.50 including booking fee and the doors open 7pm.

Scottish guitarist, **Ewan McLennan** will be playing Stourbridge Folk Club at Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge on March 19. Tickets are £8 in advance and £10 on the night.

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Revamped depot for Metro is unveiled

A MULTI-MILLION pound expansion of a Midland Metro depot has been formally opened.

The £13.8 million project saw Wednesbury's Potters Lane complex upgraded as part of the on-going £128 million expansion of the line between Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

It was opened by Councillor Darren Cooper, leader of Sandwell Borough Council and a member of the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.

He said: "This is a fantastic addition to the Midland Metro infrastructure and proof of our ambition to achieve an even higher standard of service.

Happen

"An awful lot of work has gone into refurbishing the depot while keeping the Metro in operation and I applaud all those who have made it happen."

The project was commissioned in 2012 by Centro, the West Midlands' public transport co-ordinator.

A 0.8 mile (1.4km) extension from Snow Hill station to New Street station in the heart of Birmingham city centre is due to open by the end of this year.

Councillor Roger Horton, Centro lead member for rail, said: "Seeing the new depot come to fruition is brilliant.

"It is good news and all part of the regeneration of Birmingham, the Black Country and the wider West Midlands."

FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

New leisure centre may be in free swimming scheme

THOUSANDS of children and over-60s will be able to swim for free in Sandwell for two more years under plans to extend the scheme, including at the new Wednesbury Leisure Centre when it opens later in the year.

A total of £368,000 will spent on running the programme at the borough's leisure centres. More than 16,000 children and adults have taken up the offer since it was first introduced in 2013.

by Heather Large

The council says the scheme has proven successful and bosses say they are keen for it to continue. It was first launched to help cut obesity rates following a rise in the number of overweight youngsters in the borough.

The scheme allows adults, who are Sandwell residents, aged 60 and over to swim without charge during public swimming sessions, for seven days per week before 1pm, all year round. While children and teenagers can swim for free during school holidays. The free sessions are currently available at Haden Hill, Langley, Smethwick, Tipton and West Bromwich leisure centres.

Swimmers will also be able to take up the offer at the new Wednesbury Leisure Centre. Director of health Jyoti Atri said: "Since the Free Swimming in Sandwell initiative was launched in June 2013, 2,812 adults and 13,229 children and young people who meet the criteria have become a member of the scheme.

"Each adult member has, on average, made use of the scheme twice a month, and it has delivered,to the end of December 2015, an 85 per cent increase in the number of swimming visits made by children and young people."

The scheme will cost £184,000 in 2015/16 and the same amount again in 2016/17. Funding will come from operators of the leisure centres – Sandwell Leisure Trust and PfP Leisure.

The programme has led to a rise in visitor numbers to the borough's leisure centres. There were around 1.6 million visits logged between April 2013 and March 2014 – up by six per cent on the previous year.

From left, Councillor Paul Moore and Mayor Councillor Derek Rowley with Terry Wood and John Lawley from Greets Green Bowling Club, which received £448

Clubs are on the ball for grants

SPORTS groups have received grants from a special fund set up to help them improve their facilities and equipment, including a bowling club based near Wednesbury.

Sandwell clubs could apply for grants of up to £500 – and a total of £22,500 is now going to nearly 50 local organisations.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for health, said the scheme set out to support sports clubs that play a major role in helping people stay fit and get involved in sport.

He said: "We were overwhelmed by applications from sports clubs and have more than doubled the amount that we initially intended to give out from £10,000 to £22,500.

"I am pleased so many clubs across Sandwell are getting assistance because they are run by hard-working volunteers who find it difficult to get funding."

Town pub to sell ale in honour of Saddlers

A PUB in Wednesbury will be helping Saddlers' faithful celebrate their team's historic achievement by stocking a special commemorative ale.

The Backyard Brewhouse has rolled out a limited edition ale to commemorate Walsall's historic trip to Wembley next month.

The brewery, which is the only one in Walsall, will release its Super Saddlers ale to pubs in the local area for the lead up to the Johnstone's Paint Trophy Final.

The beer, which is a Red Rye IPA and has an alcohol content of 4.7 per cent, has already sold out of the 40 containers – totalling around 3,000 pints – which were made.

And among the pubs across the Black Country which will be stocking the ale from Monday March 9 will be The Green Dragon in Church Street, Wednesbury.

Others include The Fountain Inn, Lower Forster Street and The Tap and Tanner, Darwall Street, both in Walsall.

For fans that prefer a drink from home, a limited amount of nine pint can kegs will be available direct from the brewery for those who cannot make the game.

Austen Morgan, managing director of The Backyard Brewhouse, said: "There was no brainstorming involved; the pubs in the local area couldn't get hold of the beer quick enough."

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Fury songs in Paradise are pure Gold

Halfway To Paradise, Wolverhampton Grand

ROCKER Billy Fury led a life of ill health and died too young at 42.

This show told of his life and career and featured his many hits. Fury in fact released more songs than the Beatles during the 1960s, but failed to top the charts, despite such big numbers as Halfway to Paradise, I'd Never Find Another You, I Will, Wondrous Place, Last Night Was Made For Love and Jealousy – his biggest hit. For Colin Gold, the show has given him a career for nigh on two decades. Following an appearance on Stars In Their Eyes as the Liverpool-born star, Gold was later asked to join Fury's old backing band The Tornados and this show has now been touring for 18 years.

Introduced via big screen by Fury's partner Lisa Voice, the narrated biopic featured archive material and black and white stage footage which helped transport the audience to the time of Fury's rock n roll hey day.

Gold has the looks and sounds of the late great rocker and many songs had the audience singing along, including the haunting It's Only Make Believe.

Band members who worked with Fury throughout the 1970s, had their own tales and memories of the star, before the show ended with Fury's last track Forget Him. But who could?

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS

Jason is brilliant in royal tale

The King's Speech, Birmingham Rep

THERE'S a local dimension to The King's Speech, which opened at Birmingham Rep this week, in that King Edward VIII, as the Prince of Wales, had been a frequent visitor to Himley Hall.

It was his abdication which propelled to the throne the stammering Bertie, the future George VI, who had never expected to be king.

David Seidler's play concentrates on the relationship between Bertie and Lionel Logue, a failed Australian actor who had set himself up in Harley Street as a speech therapist.

Jason Donovan was simply brilliant as the therapist bringing out the humour in the part, but clearly aware of the sensitive background of his patient.

Raymond Coulthard, as Bertie, showed the vulnerable side of his character's nature, but never lost that air of royal superiority.

All in all, a most engrossing piece of theatre, which runs until Saturday, March 7.

Jerald Smith

A scene from Birmingham Royal Ballet's Coppélia featuring Elisha Willis and Joseph Caley

Living doll ballet a triumph of strength, elegance and energy

Coppélia, Birmingham Hippodrome

JAPANESE ballerina Momoko Hirata is fast emerging as a major star at Birmingham Royal Ballet with a steely strength to go with her elegance and energy. In Coppélia she added a charming comedic quality as a mischievous living doll.

She played Swanilda, the mercurial village beauty who mimics the mechanical Coppélia to confound its eccentric creator Dr Coppélius in the delightful Act II.

On opening night at the Hippodrome she was well-matched by fellow principal dancer César Morales as her sweetheart Franz. The handsome Chilean also has power allied with outstanding technique, and a lightness of touch as the lad with a roving eye who falls for the unobtainable Coppélia.

The entire ensemble shone as various Eastern European villagers and mechanical creations. During the run at Birmingham the role of Swanilda was also danced by Elisha Willis, Samara Downs, Arancha Balsega and Céline Gittens.

The company return to the Hippodrome for director David Bintley's Carmina burana and his latest work The King Dances from June 17 to 20 and lavish time-travelling comedy Sylvia, with music by Delibes, from June 24 to 27.

Leon Burakowski

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Plenty of stands for the crowds to see

COMPETITION

Time to home in on advice from experts

THERE will be a larger than ever pool of hands-on property specialists to inspire visitors at The National Homebuilding & Renovating Show.

As the property market has strengthened over the past year, the updated National Homebuilding & Renovating Show, sponsored by Anglian Home Improvements, is returning in full force to the NEC, Birmingham from March 26-29 with a record number of more than 15 self-build, renovation and home improvement specialists.

And the organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to give 70 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

Homeowners planning to undertake a house project such as remodelling, extending, constructing a new dwelling from scratch or revamping their existing property will find more tailored inspiration and specialist guidance to pursue their plans than ever before.

Throughout the four days, visitors will have access to the latest products, services and innovations from more than 500 exhibitors, and one-to-one consultations to discuss tailor made project ideas.

They will be able to attend free seminars held by experts and masterclasses, sponsored by Internorm, on topics including sustainable heating; financial and planning permission issues; eco living and architectural design.

Charlie Luxton, sustainable architectural designer and presenter of More4's 'Building the Dream', and Julia Kendell, interior design expert and co-presenter of ITV's '60 Minute Makeover', will also be returning.

Homebuilding & Renovating Show Anglian

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Who is the show sponsor?

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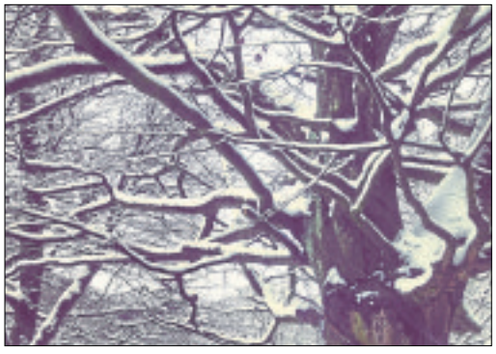
Focusing on city in black and white

MEMORY LANE looks at the beauty of monochrome pictures, with Pete Madeley

The New Cleveland Club in All Saints by Aaron Newell

The old steel works in Horseley Fields



Snow-covered tree in Tettenhall by Rebekah Parkes

THE contrast between the beauty and degradation of Wolverhampton has been captured in a series of sublime black and white photographs.

These pictures show how monochrome imagery can paint the city in a whole new light.

In recent weeks amateur photographers have sent in their entries to the Star Witness online gallery at our sister paper the Express & Star and these are just some from the pick of the bunch. Aaron Newell, a photography student at The University of Wolverhampton, took a series of black and white shots for a course project.

He said he prefers it to colour as it allows the viewer to focus exclusively on the image.

"Colour can sometimes be a distraction," said the 22-year-old, who lives in Pendeford. "Different colours have different connotations, so by stripping that away you are left with the photograph in a purer form."

Aaron said the set, which features images of his home town, aims to depict the transformation of the once great industrial powerhouse into a 'dying city'.

One of Aaron's pictures shows the former Sainsbury's building at St George's Parade, which closed last year. "For me this sums up modern Wolverhampton," he said. "It was once a busy supermarket but now it is quiet and fairly eerie. It has been in the paper a lot and people aren't really sure what's happening with the building. I tried to capture that in the picture."

Squatters

Another image shows the old steel works in Horseley Fields, the once bustling factory that now lies derelict and is inhabited by squatters.

Aaron's stark picture shows barren wasteland stretching out ahead of the neglected building, its chimney stack rising prominently in the distance.

"There would have been so much industry here back in the day," said Aaron. "There are now 20 or 30 squatters living around there. There's sleeping bags and syringes lying around inside. I wanted to capture the view from a distance to include the empty space in front of the building. To me it's quite a desperate scene and the black and white photograph really captures it in its proper light."

The New Cleveland Club, which sits opposite the former Royal Hospital site in All Saints was also captured on film as part of his project.

The trouble-plagued venue closed its doors years ago and nowadays only its boarded up frontage conceals a ransacked interior.

Aaron said: "I was standing by the old Royal site when I took this.

It's a really derelict part of town that won't be getting better any time soon now that Tesco have pulled out.

"The club's sign is cracked, the windows are smashed or boarded up. For me the picture sums up the state of the city."

Rebekah Parkes, from Perton, was taking a stroll by the Tettenhall pool when she captured this snow-covered tree using the camera on her iPhone. The 23-year-old said: "I liked the way the snow stopped on top of the branches but they were clear underneath."

The former Sainsbury's store in St George's Parade

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Young people finding out about the Sandwell Guarantee at the New Start event

Apprentice bricklayers from Future Skills Sandwell

Sandwell Council apprentices joined by the chief executive Jan Britton

Support for young people

OVER 120 vacancies are currently on offer to young people in Sandwell.

They include apprenticeships and job opportunities – and are all part of the Sandwell Guarantee, a multi-million pounds partnership with businesses.

It is estimated that the Sandwell Guarantee could help up to 4,000 young people aged 16 to 24 who are getting benefits or not in education, employment or training.

This scheme – launched in September 2014 – is how council chiefs in the borough are putting into action their commitment to help young people obtain employment.

They have a range of services targeted at youth unemployment. They all come together under the Sandwell Guarantee label and include:

- Work experience scheme
- Apprenticeship programme; and
- Other specialist projects to help young people do something positive with their lives and move towards employment.

Secured

Since its launch, the Sandwell Guarantee has helped 260 young people – and 78 secured employment by December last year.

The scheme currently has over 120 vacancies in a range of occupations including apprenticeships and job opportunities.

One part of it, Future Skills Sandwell, offers apprenticeships and training in a range of construction trades.

These include painting and decorating, plastering, bricklaying and carpentry.

Also available are apprenticeships in warehousing, business administration and customer service.

The Sandwell Guarantee gives local businesses the chance to shape the workforce of the future by recruiting a young person aged 16 to 24. The guarantee also pays half their salary for 12 months.

Businesses also get support to recruit the young person they need and to mentor them in the workplace.

The scheme can provide 16 to 24-year-olds with a clear route into employment via an apprenticeship or job opportunity. It works alongside Connexions, Job Centre Plus, local colleges, training providers and other voluntary sector organisations.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Lots of young people are trapped in unemployment – they can't get a job without work experience and can't get experience without a job.

Guarantee

"We are determined to break this cycle and give a cast iron guarantee of a job or training for up to a year.

"Every young person will get the skills, experience and confidence to succeed.

"Youth unemployment is falling as the job market improves so it is more vital than ever we help those young people who have fallen through the net, for whatever reason.

"We have thousands of forward-thinking businesses in Sandwell that can provide the expertise and resources to make a real difference."

The council's cabinet member for jobs and economy Councillor Ian Jones said: "Youth unemployment is a terrible waste of talent and we have to do everything we can to tackle it."

Council chief executive Jan Britton said: "Sandwell's businesses are a key strength of the borough and there is nothing we can't achieve if we work together for young people."

To find out more, businesses and young people can call 0121 569 2099 or email direct at enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk

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Bobby's dazzler as tabby who needs a new home

A CAT is looking for a new home and a loving family after being taken in by a sanctuary when his elderly owners died a year ago.

Bobby, a seven-year-old ginger tabby, is being cared for by staff at Wednesbury Cat Sanctuary. They want cat lovers to come forward and given the friendly moggy a permanent home. He had a tough start in life and was first brought into the sanctuary around four years ago after being found as a stray. He had a severe tooth infection and needed veterinary treatment.

But the determined cat clawed his way back to health with help from the sanctuary's animal welfare nurse Joyce Clark. After he had recovered, Bobby was happily rehoused with the elderly couple.

But he was returned to the sanctuary a year ago after the couple died.

Joyce said: "It is very sad as Bobby was very happy with his new owners.

"He had been with us for around a year now but would be far happier in a home environment. Unfortunately because of his age there has been no interest so far."

Joyce said Bobby was a very friendly cat who had no aggression in him. "We are looking to find him a new start in life with a loving family," she said. "I would urge anyone interested to get in touch with us."

The sanctuary can be contacted on 0121 502 5027.

Joyce Clarke from the Wednesbury Animal Sanctuarywith Bobby the cat, who is looking for a home

Counting down to charity concert

AN accountant will be swapping his calculator and pen for a microphone when he and his band raise money for charity with a special concert.

Covers band, The Quad Rox, will be playing a selection of hits from The Killers, Green Day, Oasis and The Rolling Stones. The band hopes to raise more than £1,000 for the charity at the gig, which is due to be held at Old Oscott Working Men's Club on Aldridge Road, Great Barr on Friday from 8.30pm.

Lead singer Ritchie Bowden, who works at Birmingham-based firm JW Hinks, said: "We are delighted to help such a worthy cause as Our Place Community Hub, who relies on the support of the local community to continue to provide such invaluable support.

"Tickets for the gig have been selling extremely well and we are anticipating a full house on the night, which should result in a great night for all." For more details visit www.facebook.com/thequadroxband

£2m to help expansion of services at hospital

UP to £2 million will be spent expanding services at a Black Country hospital. Bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust want to offer a wider range of clinics and facilities at Rowley Regis Hospital.

They say it will mean more people can get regular treatment closer to home rather than having to travel to Sandwell Hospital or Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

A consultation is under way with residents to find out what services they would like to be available at the site in Moor Lane.

Ideas put forward so far include a pharmacy, midwifery services, such as antenatal and postnatal clinics, and respiratory therapy. Improved gym facilities and space for support groups to help patients and families have also been suggested.

Chief executive Toby Lewis said up to £3m had been spent redeveloping the hospital during the past two years and now the trust expected to invest a further £1m to £2m by 2016.

Travel

Mr Lewis said that by expanding the range of services they could stop patients having to travel to larger sites for follow-up appointments or long-term treatment.

"A lot of Sandwell residents go to Russells Hall Hospital because it's more convenient to where they live in the borough," he said.

"But I think for long-term care for these patients, the consensus from local GPs, my staff and staff at Russells Hall is we could make more use of Rowley Regis.

Report by Simon Stone

"It's a cracking building and it's about choosing the right services that people want and need."

Mr Lewis said the consultation would also look at whether any other changes would need to be made to the site, such as expanding the car park.

Services currently based there include outpatient clinics for cardiology, diabetes, rheumatology and Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT).

There is also a primary care assessment and treatment service available for patients who need monitoring but not admission to an acute hospital and gym facilities for patients who need physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

It comes as preparation work continues ahead of the construction of the £353m Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick.

The 'super hospital', which will be built on a site off Grove Lane, will have 670 beds.

The consultation runs until March 20.

People can share their views via an online questionnaire, or by visiting the hospital on weekdays between 10am and 3pm.

Restoration chiefs on nameplates mission

THE organisers of a restoration project in a park are appealing for the owners of memorial nameplates on benches to contact them.

Sandwell Council is carrying out the work to return the 18th century Lightwoods House to community use.

A tea room will be created and exhibition space provided on the ground floor of the building.

On the first floor, there will be rooms for the community, conferences and weddings with the upper floor dedicated to commercial office space. Cherie O'Sullivan, the Lightwoods Park project officer, is seeking to hear from anyone who owns a memorial bench in the garden or a memorial name plate on the garden wall, as they do not know who a number of the nameplates belong to.

Anyone who owns a nameplate can contact her before March 31 on 0121 5694740 or email cherie_osullivan@sandwell.gov.uk

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Puttin' on the Ritz in Top Hat

GET out your Top Hat, White Tie and Tails and Let's Face The Music and Dance when a top West End musical comes to Birmingham Hippodrome next week.

Based on the 1935 Irving Berlin musical movie starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, the new stage version of Top Hat won multiple Laurence Olivier Awards in 2013.

This feel-good show features lots of spectacular dance and such famous songs at Cheek To Cheek and Puttin' On The Ritz.

Starring Alan Burkitt and Charlotte Gooch in the Fred and Ginger roles, both from the London production, Top Hat will be staged at the Hippodrome from Tuesday, March 10, to Saturday, March 21.

Jeeves & Wooster come to the Rep

PEEP Show star Robert Webb plays Bertie Wooster with Jason Thorpe, from Primeval, as his long-suffering butler Jeeves when the much-loved comic characters are brought to Birmingham Rep.

Edwardian manners are sent up in this play by the Goodale Brothers, based on the work of PG Wodehouse. Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense, from Monday to Saturday, March 14, also features Christopher Ryan, who was Mike in The Young Ones. It has been directed by Sean Foley, who directed The Ladykillers and Mad World My Masters staged at the Grand last week.

Fins are looking up for BRIT young things Jump The Shark

Group's Blonde ambition

IT'S the hit comedy that made the transition from screen to stage musical as Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company prepare their groundbreaking production of Legally Blonde.

They will bring their amateur premier of the hit Broadway and West End show to the Grand Theatre on Tuesday after months of rehearsals.

Katie Astbury, aged 19, will be playing the lead role of Elle Woods, accompanied by loveable Chihuahua Bruiser, real name Fiona. Katie, from Finchfield, is stepping into the high heels of London star Sheridan Smith to play the unconventional trainee lawyer.

The run, over five nights and a Saturday matinee, will mark the first time Legally Blonde the musical has been performed by an amateur company in England. For more details, visit grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Legally Blonde star Katie Astbury with Chihuahua Fiona

SITTING in the audience at the BRIT Awards last week were a Wolverhampton band who are already on their way to following in the footsteps of the UK music scene's biggest stars.

Teenagers Jump The Shark are on the right track after winning a BRIT-backed national award. The group is tipped for stardom after they lifted the coveted Next BRIT Thing talent award in front of a thousand-plus crowd at Indigo in the O2 Arena in London.

The award is backed by the UK music industry, the BRIT Awards and The Classic BRIT Awards. More than 900 solo artists and groups, aged 18 and 24, entered the competition by uploading their music onto the Big Music Project website in May last year. Over 150 acts made it to regional heats before being whittled down to just 16 for the final showdown.

Lead singer and drummer Tasha Jones, a 17-year-old Wolverhampton Girls High School pupil from Wednesfield, confessed: "I am in shock. It was overwhelming.

"I cannot believe the number of important figures from the music industry that this win has put us in touch with. You cannot put a value on that.

Confidence

"It is a huge boost to our confidence. It proves that people really do like what we are doing and will motivate us to get even better."

Thomas Telford School pupil Theo Williams, also 17, from Tettenhall, plays guitar and sings backing vocals in the band that formed five years ago. He said: "We rose to the occasion and enjoyed the experience. The band initially got together after we discovered that we were better guitarists than footballers. We met by accident but have stuck together. It has been around a year since we decided to go with a four piece format and it has been great."

Jump The Shark's triumph gives them the opportunity to record at the legendary AbbeyRoad studios, where The Beatles and Pink Floyd made some of their most famous albums. They could also possibly have one of their songs featuring on next year's BRIT Awards album.

Next BRIT thing — Jump The Shark

Theo admitted: "The prospect of being in the studio where John Lennon and numerous other wonderful musicians sat is very exciting."

The band write their own music and performed their own song There's Always One. The other members are guitarist Jon Murphy, 17, from Claregate who attends Walsall College and bass guitarist Matt Gregory, 16, from Tettenhall, a pupil at Thomas Telford School.

Jump The Shark will be performing on March 19 at Newhampton Arts Centre in Wolverhampton.

Award winners on way to Midlands

BRIT Awards winners are on their way to Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

First up are heavy rock duo Royal Blood who have won lots of fans since their self-titled debut album was released in August.

The powerhouse pair from Brighton won best British Group award and will have a full house for their concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday. Their support will be Mini Mansions, featuring Queens of the Stone Age bassist Michael Shuman on drums.

British Female Solo Artist winner Paloma Faith will be in concert at Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on March 19 and has already sold out her Forest gig on July 10 at Cannock Chase.

Global Success Award winner Sam Smith has sold out his March 22 date at Wolverhampton Civic. His debut album In the Lonely Hour has sold in millions.

Surreal revamp for popular opera

WELSH National Opera return to Birmingham to perform a non-traditional production of Mozart's The Magic Flute at the Hippodrome. Staged tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow, Dominic Cooke's production has been described as warm, witty and surreal.

Watch out there's a witch about when Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel becomes a dark fantasy in Richard Jones's production at Birmingham on Saturday.

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CHOICE

Elisabeth Shue

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Channel 5, 9pm)

Daycia Fox was attending rehab in Las Vegas to treat her addiction to alcohol and drugs. Sadly she met an untimely end. However, when her body is found in the swimming pool of an abandoned house, there's more to the case than meets the eye; this is CSI after all, where nothing is ever as it seems. Following a post-mortem, detectives discover no trace of chlorine in the water in the victim's lungs, so it seems she died in the bath back at the clinic, and somebody moved her body to make it look like an accident. It begs the questions: who did it and why? Look out for Greg (Heroes) Grunberg among the regular cast, which includes his Hollow Man co-star Elisabeth Shue, and the ever reliable Ted Danson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v USA. **4.30** Final Score. **5.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.20** Match of the Day Live. Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion (Kick-off 5.30pm).

7.30 The Voice UK. As the battle rounds continue, the contestants aim to secure their place in the next stage of the competition. It's up to Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson to decide who they want to keep and eliminate, but it's not necessarily over for the losers, as the coaches have a chance to "steal" a rejected artist for their own team.

9.30 Casualty. Lily tries to persuade a woman to be honest with her husband by admitting she doesn't want to continue with IVF treatment – although when the doctor's own exhaustion begins to catch up with her, it seems she is not being entirely truthful to herself. Rita helps a man change his stubborn attitude after he refuses to tell people he has a neurological disease, while Dixie is forced to give Iain a verbal warning.

10.15 The National Lottery Live. Gaby Roslin is joined by comedian and actor Matt Lucas, who pushes the buttons to reveal the Lotto and Thunderball numbers.

10.25 BBC News; Weather.

10.45 Match of the Day. Highlights of this weekend's only Premier League encounter, which saw Queens Park Rangers host Tottenham Hotspur at Loftus Road.

11.15 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights of the first two sixth-round matches, as Bradford City faced Reading at Valley Parade and Aston Villa welcomed West Bromwich Albion to Villa Park; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Derby County v Birmingham City.

1.15 Film: Charlie & Boots. (2009) **2.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.55** BBC News.

BBC2

7.30 FA Cup Rewind: Quarter Final Classics. **8.30** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. **11.30** Animal Park. (R) **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.40** Noel Coward: Talking Pictures. **1.10 Film:** In Which We Serve. (1942) Second World War drama, starring Noel Coward. **3.00** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. The third day of the meeting from the O2 Arena in Prague, Czech Republic.

7.30 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson. The American science author explores the impact on the modern world of technological innovations in the sphere of lighting, investigating Thomas Edison's role in the invention and development of the electric bulb. Steven also reveals how a French scientist accidentally discovered how to create neon light, leading to a revolution in advertising and the glare of the Las Vegas strip.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the platoon try to capture three German airmen who have landed in a lake after bailing out and intend to stay in their dinghy until nightfall. (R)

9.00 QI. Josh Widdicombe, Sue Perkins and Frank Skinner join regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of questions about levity, levitation and lights. (R)

9.30 Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the South. The comedian concludes his road trip through the American South by exploring the musical heritage of Mississippi and Louisiana. In Memphis, he meets songwriting partners Steve Cropper and Eddie Floyd at Stax Records, before going on the trail of the origins of both delta and hill country blues in the company of musicians Seasick Steve and Cedric Burnside. Last in the series.

10.30 Film: Good Vibrations. (2012) Premiere. A record shop owner in 1970s Belfast becomes a key figure in the underground punk scene during the Troubles. Fact-based drama, starring Richard Dormer and Jodie Whittaker.

12.05 Film: Cross of Iron. (1977) Sam Peckinpah's Second World War drama, starring James Coburn, Maximilian Schell, James Mason and David Warner. **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Doc Martin. (R) **3.35** Secrets from the Sky. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 You've Been Framed! Favourites. Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips, featuring Annette Bening and Kim Jong-il lookalikes, below-the-belt mishaps, mischief and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The Geordie duo take control of Jeremy Kyle in I'm a Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear!, and Little Ant and Dec meet Take That. Rob Brydon is this week's celebrity guest announcer.

8.25 Take Me Out. Paddy McGuinness hosts an extended edition, giving the 30 single women one last chance to find the man of their dreams on the show. Hotel receptionist Leslie from Belfast, plumber Alan from Pontefract, construction worker Cole from Darlington and model Pete from Cornwall are all hoping to sweep them off their feet, and must persuade the girls to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy finds out how the couples get on in the sun, and also provides an update on last week's lovebirds. Last in the series.

9.55 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host welcomes actor Damian Lewis (Homeland, Wolf Hall), and music legend Bryan Ferry, who performs in the studio.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 Film: Play Misty for Me. (1971) A DJ revives his relationship with an old flame, driving an obsessive fan mad with jealousy. Psychological thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

1.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 How I Met Your Mother. **6.30** How I Met Your Mother. **6.55** Trans World Sport. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 The Simpsons. A romantic evening at the ice-rink leads to Homer and Marge heading for the Winter Olympics to play for a curling team, while Lisa becomes hopelessly addicted to collecting sporting memorabilia and Bart befriends Canada's equivalent of Milhouse. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Crufts 2015. Clare Balding presents highlights from the third and penultimate day of the world's largest dog show, held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Yesterday saw the judging of the Working and Pastoral groups, and this evening's programme moves on to the Terrier and Hound categories. There's also a special report from Noel Fitzpatrick, known for his pioneering work as seen in Channel 4 series The Supervet.

9.00 Film: Salt. (2010) A CIA agent is accused of being a sleeper assassin with a deadly purpose – to kill the Russian president during a diplomatic visit and start a third world war. She goes on the run, with her colleagues in hot pursuit – but each attempt to prove her innocence only raises more questions about her identity. Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolie and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

11.00 Film: Heartbreakers. (2001) A mother and daughter con rich bachelors out of a fortune, but their plans are threatened when the daughter falls in love. Comedy, with Sigourney Weaver.

1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.30** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) **5.25** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.45** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.40** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **1.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **2.35** Missing: Flight MH370 One Year On. (R) **3.35 Film:** Monte Walsh. (1970) Western, starring Lee Marvin. **5.30** 5 News Weekend. **5.40 Film:** Columbo: Candidate for Crime. (1973) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

7.20 NCIS. The murder of a marine during a cruise is investigated by the agents, who discover the victim had turned his back on a life of privilege to join the military. (R)

8.05 NCIS. A navy recruitment officer is murdered at a high school and the agents discover he had recently begun a relationship with a married teacher whose wife held a grudge against him. They also find out a student's father was vehemently opposed to his joining the military, and receive help from an unexpected quarter – Ducky's esteemed predecessor, Dr Magnus. (R)

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A body found in the swimming pool of an abandoned house is identified as Daycia Fox, who was attending rehab in Las Vegas to treat her addiction to alcohol and drugs. The post-mortem reveals no trace of chlorine in the water in the victim's lungs and the team concludes she died in the bath back at the clinic, with somebody moving the body to make it look like a tragic accident.

10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Saliva from a tiger is discovered on a murdered model, leading the detectives on the hunt for a former people trafficker who is now involved in the exotic animal trade. (R)

10.55 Law & Order. An investigation into a hit-and-run leads to a property scam, but the team's undercover work takes a surprising twist that pits McCoy against the US Attorney's office. Previously seen on 5USA.

11.50 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. Winnipeg police are baffled by a bank robber who does not fit the usual profile of a thief. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great TV Mistakes **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **9.30 Film:** Adventureland (2009) **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** Uncle **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** South Side Story **2.30** Sexy Beasts **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Hostages **10.45** Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time **11.45** TOTP2: 80s Special **12.45** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.50** The Secret Life of Elephants **2.50** Lost Kingdoms of Central America

ITV2

11.10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.35** Catchphrase **1.20 Film:** Batteries Not Included (1987) **3.25** You've Been Framed! **4.00 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **6.15 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **8.00 Film:** Jurassic Park III (2001) **9.55** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.55** Ibiza Weekender **11.55** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.20** Reality Bites **1.05** Crazy Beaches **1.30** Hell's Kitchen **2.15** Fake Reaction **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 The Darling Buds of May **12.50** A Touch of Frost **3.00 Film:** Carry On Cowboy (1966) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.05** Lewis **12.10** A Touch of Frost **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.45 Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. **11.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **12.00 Film:** Buried (2010) **2.00** Hogan's Heroes **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Made in Chelsea **12.00** Taking New York **1.00** Marry Me **1.30** New Girl **2.30** Melissa & Joey **3.30** Baby Daddy **4.30** How I Met Your Mother **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop II (1987) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.30** Rude Tube **12.35** How I Met Your Mother **1.35** The Cleveland Show **3.10** One Tree Hill **3.50** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 Treasure Island (1972) **1.00** Rio (2011) **3.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **5.55** Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) **9.00** Serenity (2005) **11.20** AVPR: Aliens vs Predator – Requiem (2007) **1.10** Predators (2010) **3.25** Close

CHOICE

Aidan Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Period drama based on the novels by Winston Graham, originally adapted into a successful 1970s TV series. In late 18th-century Cornwall, Ross Poldark joins the army to avoid charges of smuggling, leaving behind his loved one Elizabeth – and when he returns three years later, having fought in the American War of Independence, he finds his father dead, his estate in ruins and his sweetheart engaged to another man. In need of help, he takes on a new kitchen maid after rescuing her from a beating – bringing him into conflict with hostile locals. Aidan Turner takes the title role, with Eleanor Tomlinson, Heida Reed, Warren Clarke, Mary Woodvine, Harriet Ballard, Robert Daws, Kyle Soller and Caroline Blakiston.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.45** Match of the Day. (R) **8.20** Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** BBC News. **12.25** Songs of Praise. **1.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v USA. **3.35** Bargain Hunt. (R) **4.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. The amateur artists travel to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, the birthplace and ancestral home of Winston Churchill. Their first challenge sees them arranging a collection of personal items – from a large yellow hat to a skull – which they must capture on canvas using acrylics. This is followed by a quick 30-minute sketch of a giant chess board, ensuring that light and shadow are just as important as perspective and scale. In their last chance to impress before the elimination, the hopefuls paint the facade of the palace, attempting to capture the drama of its stunning architecture.

7.00 Countryfile. The team is in rural Cheshire, where Matt Baker joins an agricultural student working on his father's farm and Ellie Harrison discovers what life was like for Victorian apprentices.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Trixie and Sister Mary Cynthia team up to support a deaf mother-to-be, while a case of morning sickness proves more serious than initially suspected. Last in the series.

9.00 Poldark. New series. Period drama about a young aristocrat who returns from the battlefield to find his estate in ruins and his sweetheart engaged to another man. Aidan Turner stars.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights. Highlights of the third match in the FA Cup sixth round, as Liverpool faced Blackburn Rovers at Anfield.

11.05 The Apprentice USA. In an extended edition featuring two tasks, the teams have to promote and sell tickets to a live comedy event, and then film a 60-second advertisement for a new car safety device.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 The Football League Show. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** FA Cup Rewind: Sixth-Round Classics. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **12.30** A Taste of Britain. **1.00** A Taste of Britain; Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. The final day of the meeting from the O2 Arena in Prague, Czech Republic. **5.35** Super-Powered Owls: Natural World. (R)

6.35 Pompidou. The penniless aristocrat thinks he has won the lottery, but it turns out that it his butler Hove who has actually hit the jackpot. Comedy, starring Matt Lucas.

7.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. The concluding episode of the documentary about the construction of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London follows the work of engineers building 10 new stations. A team battles to put together the giant jigsaw that will become a cathedral-sized station at Canary Wharf. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. James May competes in a world rallycross race and Richard Hammond tests the new version of the Mazda MX-5. Plus, Nicholas Hoult is the Star in the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 Let's Play Darts for Comic Relief. Gabby Logan is joined on the sofa by the celebrity players, who reflect on the highs and lows of the tournament so far and discuss the eagerly anticipated final. Then the competition reaches its climax as the two remaining famous faces and their professional partners go head to head for the title at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, Surrey. Last in the series.

10.05 The Revolution Will Be Televised. First of two compilations from the first three series of the sketch show lampooning arrogance, hypocrisy and greed in public life, starring Heydon Prowse and Jolyon Rubinstein.

10.35 Film: The Hunter. (2011) Premiere. Drama, starring Willem Dafoe, Frances O'Connor and Sam Neill.

12.10 Film: Howl. (2010) **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Catchphrase. (R) **3.25 Film:** The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan, presenter Anna Richardson, bushcraft expert Ray Mears and Coronation Street actress Jane Danson play for charity. Last in the series.

7.30 Off Their Rockers. A foul-mouthed nun runs amok, Seb gets advice on attending a naturist wedding and Dave gives a member of the public his lucky pants.

8.00 All Star Family Fortunes. Former X Factor winner Sam Bailey and Loose Women panellist Jamelia team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Nancy begins to feel the weight of her deception over her fling with Harry, Victor and Violette take a romantic trip to the coast, and Mr Grove finds out the truth from Miss Mardle.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Tensions reach boiling point as the celebrities face their toughest challenge yet, navigating down a powerful river, building shelters, catching food and enduring a tropical storm. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights from the 17th round of fixtures, including Bath v Sale Sharks at the Recreation Ground, Exeter Chiefs v London Welsh at Sandy Park and Wasps v Saracens at Ricoh Arena.

12.05 The Store. **2.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.10** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.55 Film:** Bride Wars. (2009) Comedy, starring Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway. **4.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.40** Channel 4 News.

6.05 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Jasmine Harman and Jonnie Irwin meet a man who wants to buy a place in the south-west of France, and his partner, who is nervous of taking the plunge and would prefer Devon.

7.00 Crufts 2015: Best in Show. The final day concludes with the most prestigious prize of the competition – the Best in Show – as Clare Balding goes behind the scenes during the build-up, meets the participants and reports live from the NEC in Birmingham as the winner is announced. Last in the series.

9.00 Indian Summers. There's much excitement in Simla as the Viceroy arrives for the first of his summer visits. Ralph is troubled when he discovers the only piece of evidence that linked Chandru Mohan to the Congress Party has gone missing. Aafrin finds himself in danger when he learns there will be a search of the properties of all those who had access to the stolen item. Ian is forced to grow up quickly when he receives sad news about his uncle, while Eugene threatens to return to Chicago with Madeleine. Sarah receives information from England that sheds light on Alice's mysterious past.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts this comedy take on the quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by Jo Brand and Claudia Winkleman. Bill Bailey is in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.05 Film: The Twilight Saga: New Moon. (2009) Romantic fantasy sequel, starring Kristen Stewart.

1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** River Cottage Veg Heroes. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Olly the Little White Van. **7.10** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. **8.25** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.05** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.55 Film:** The Reef. (2006) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Prinze Jr. **3.25 Film:** Open Season 2. (2008) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Joel McHale. **4.55 Film:** Mulan. (1998) Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Ming-Na and Eddie Murphy.

6.35 5 News Weekend.

6.40 Film: Hitch. (2005) A professional relationship guru, who specialises in offering advice to lonely single men, helps an unlucky-in-love accountant to woo the girl of his dreams. However, when he finds himself falling for a beautiful gossip columnist, his usual charm abandons him and he discovers his expertise counts for nothing. Romantic comedy, with Will Smith. Edited for violence and language.

9.00 Film: 21 Jump Street. (2012) Cops Schmidt and Jenko hated each other when they were at school together, but have grown up to become friends. They are forced to relive the horrors of their adolescence when their captain decides their youthful appearance makes them the perfect undercover agents to crack a high-school drug ring. Comedy inspired by the 1980s TV series, with Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Edited for language.

11.15 Film: Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. (2004) The struggling owner of a run-down gym tries to save his business by forming a team for the US dodgeball championships. Sporting comedy, starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.05** Family Guy **12.30** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.30** Uncle **2.00** South Side Story **2.30** Sexy Beasts

BBC Four
7.00 The Great War **7.40** New Forest Badgers **7.50** Dancing Cranes of Sweden **8.00** Royal Television Society Huw Wheldon Memorial Lecture: Public Service Broadcasting – A House of Cards? **8.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** A Wolf Called Storm: Natural World Special **10.00** Storyville: India's Daughter **11.00 Film:** Bright Days Ahead (2013) **12.30** Boy George and Culture Club: Karma to Calamity **1.30** Nile Rodgers: The Hitmaker **2.30** The New Romantics – A Fine Romance **3.20** Sounds of the Eighties **3.50** Close

ITV2
11.30 Take Me Out **1.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.00** You've Been Framed! **2.30** Scorpion **3.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.50 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **6.55 Film:** Freaky Friday (2003) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30 Film:** American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) **12.40** Mom **1.30** Crazy Beaches **1.55** Life's Funniest Moments **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.20 Rosemary & Thyme **12.20** A Touch of Frost **2.30** Jane Eyre **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.45** Inspector Morse **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35 Film:** Chaplin (1992) **2.20** Perspectives: David Suchet – People I Have Shot **3.10** Judge Judy **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.45 Live Darts: UK Open. **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** The Big Fish Off **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. **11.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **12.00** Brian Lara: Sports Life Stories **1.00** River Monsters: Untold Stories **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Iron Man (2008) **9.00** Troy **10.00** Rude Tube **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Tattoos After Dark **12.35** Taking New York **1.40** 2 Broke Girls **2.05** Rules of Engagement **2.50** One Tree Hill **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Brief Encounter (1945) **1.00** Step Up 3 (2010) **3.20** Jumper (2008) **5.05** Porridge (1979) **6.55** Playing for Keeps (2012) **9.00** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** The Fourth Kind (2009) **1.05** Kelly + Victor (2012)

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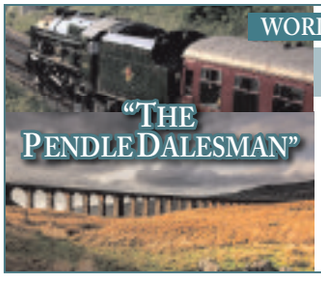
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Fugitive, Channel 5, 11pm
A doctor is convicted of his wife's murder and forced to go on the run to prove his innocence – but his efforts to find the mysterious one-armed man he believes is the real killer are hampered by a tenacious US marshal. Thriller, starring Harrison Ford, an Oscar-winning Tommy Lee Jones, Sela Ward, Julianne Moore and Joe Pantoliano. (1993)

TUESDAY
Hollywoodland, BBC1, 11.40pm
Fact-based mystery focusing on the life and sudden death of actor George Reeves, famed for his role as Superman in the 1950s TV series. The story is told in flashback through the eyes of a private investigator hired by Reeves' mother to unearth the truth surrounding his mysterious fate. Starring Ben Affleck, Adrien Brody, Diane Lane and Bob Hoskins. (2006)

WEDNESDAY
Shifty, BBC1, 12.25am
London cocaine dealer Shifty finds his outlook transformed by the return of his best friend Chris after four years away. As the pair spend the day together, Shifty struggles to deal with a persistent addict and a rival with a score to settle, while at the same time confronting the bleak future he finds himself facing. Drama, starring Riz Ahmed, Daniel Mays and Jason Flemyng. (2008)

The Fugitive, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

FRIDAY
Kick-Ass, Channel 4, 10pm
A teenage comic-book fan sets out to become a real-life superhero. His amateur crime-fighting exploits make him a media sensation, but he is soon in over his head as he encounters a sadistic gangster and a father-daughter vigilante team with a far more lethal approach to cleaning up the streets. Comic-book action comedy, with Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Chloe Grace Moretz and Nicolas Cage. (2010)

10,000 BC, ITV, 11.40pm
In prehistoric times, a young mammoth-hunter bravely combats ferocious creatures as he journeys across the wilderness to rescue his captive lover and her fellow villagers from brutal slave raiders. Roland Emmerich's fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis and Joel Virgel. (2008)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Term-time is over as drama bids farewell

That's all folks – Waterloo Road is closing its doors for good. Almost a grown-up version of the much-missed Grange Hill, this drama was originally commissioned for just a handful of episodes way back in 2006, and yet here we are, saying our fond farewells just short of 10 years down the line.

But those years haven't been without drama. We've seen teachers and pupils come and go, giving show bosses the chance to tackle a range of issues affecting young people today, and there's even been a relocation amidst all that, from Rochdale to Greenock.

Original cast members Jason Merrells, Angela Griffin and Jamie Glover are long gone, but Laurie Brett, who plays Christine Mulgrew, is now one of the current cast's longest-serving members.

It's been a particularly busy couple of months for her, what with the live EastEnders episodes celebrating the soap's 30th anniversary in addition to Waterloo coming to an end, but she can quickly bring to mind some of her most memorable scenes from the series. "Two in particular stand out for me," she explains. "Episode 13 in series 8 when Christine's ex-husband turns up and the revelations of her really dark past come out, and episode 19 of series 9 when she quite spectacularly falls off the wagon and has a meltdown at the school. Both episodes were really challenging and all-consuming but I think it's been the best work I've ever done."

Asked why she thinks the show has done so well for all these years, she says: "It's one of the few shows that a whole family including grandparents, parents and kids can find appealing enough to sit down and watch together. And it gives them an inroad to then talk about really topical issues and it's very rare to find a TV programme that allows that."

Brett adds: "I will really miss Christine, I have adored playing her. In five years' time, she'll be on a gorgeous beach with George Windsor, sipping non-alcoholic cocktails."

Well… it's probably safe to say the actress won't be left twiddling her thumbs and short of work.

As the series wraps up, the school pulls out all the stops in a desperate bid to halt the merger with Havelock High, and with no Vaughan, the students take matters into their own hands and try to uncover the council's real plans, after discovering it's been less than transparent before now. But with the council and its supporters out in force to convince the community and parents that the merger is the best outcome for everyone, who will win?

Meanwhile, Marco has suspicions about Lorna's ex-husband. However, his meddling only serves to land him and Kenzie in a dangerous situation.

Speaking of Kenzie, she has a decision to make – who will finally win her heart, Scott or Justin?

Neil Pearson, Stefano Braschi, Lorna Aikman and Charlotte Beaumont are among the top-drawer cast starring alongside Laurie Brett.

Waterloo Road, Monday, BBC1, 11.15pm

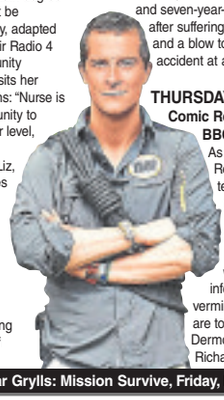
BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
10,000 BC
Channel 5, 10pm
Not to be confused with Roland Emmerich's pre-historic namesake epic, this spin on the Big Brother formula was inevitable at some point. Take a bunch of eclectic strangers, dress them like extras from Hammer classic One Million Years BC, and film them as they attempt to survive in the wild, without Wi-fi or take-out. In the final episode, there are just six days to go. Following Paul's departure from the experiment and Mike ill in the medic tent with possible liver damage, four people remain in camp. New leader Mel is working harder than ever in Mike's absence, and is concerned that she will be the next one to crack. Alas, things go from bad to worse when a sudden frost leaves foraging impossible.

TUESDAY
MasterChef
BBC1, 9pm
New series. John Torode and Gregg Wallace return to put more keen cooks to the test. The first five hopefuls begin by serving up their Calling Card, a dish that showcases their talent – and this year, it carries a prize as the judges' two favourites will sail through to the third round. Then it's new challenge the Reinvention Test, in which they create a new plate of food based on their main ingredient from the first round, before one goes home and the rest cook dinner for a trio of former MasterChef champions.

Nurse
BBC2, 10pm
If you note Paul Whitehouse's name in a new comedy, the chances are you're going to pay a certain degree of attention – and, rest assured, you won't be disappointed here. He stars in this comedy, adapted by David Cummings and himself from their Radio 4 series of the same name, about a community psychiatric nurse on her rounds as she visits her patients in their homes. The comic explains: "Nurse is a project close to my heart, it's an opportunity to explore issues and characters at a deeper level, while trying to find humour and hope in difficult situations." Esther Coles stars as Liz, the nurse, while Whitehouse takes on roles including an agoraphobic and a soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder.

WEDNESDAY
24 Hours in A&E
Channel 4, 9pm
For most of us, a hard day at the office includes little more than one's email playing up and the coffee machine running out of cups. So spare a thought for the people featured in this series, following life in a busy A&E department – where matters of life and death are a daily constant. This week, the staff help Nikki, 50, and her mum Angela, 68, after they are involved in a serious road traffic accident, leaving both of them with several complex injuries. Meanwhile, 53-year-old Ellen arrives at the unit after falling over in a shop and injuring her elbow, and seven-year-old Jack is rushed to hospital after suffering an open fracture to his arm and a blow to the head as a result of an accident at a wedding.


Bear Grylls: Mission Survive, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Comic Relief: Operation Health
BBC1, 9pm
As part of this year's Comic Relief, Lenny Henry leads a team of celebrities on a mission to rebuild a decrepit rural health centre in Uganda. What they find are semi-derelict buildings with no running water, no electricity and an infestation of rats and other vermin. As a result, many patients are too scared to stay the night. Can Dermot O'Leary, John Bishop, Richard Hammond, Steve Backshall, Doon Mackichan and Greg James give the centre the kiss of life it so desperately needs?

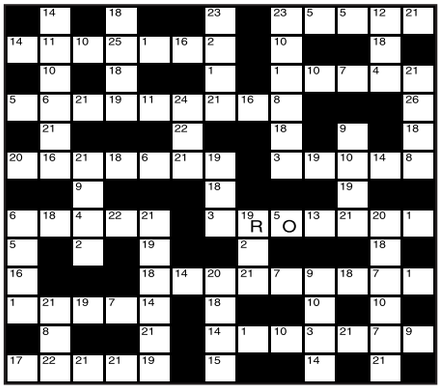
FRIDAY
Comic Relief – Face the Funny
BBC1, 7pm
Red Nose Day returns with an evening of entertainment to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa, and this year the fun comes live from the London Palladium. Lenny Henry and Davina McCall kick off the first hour of laughs, which includes Rowan Atkinson in a new Mr Bean sketch. At 8pm, David Walliams joins Davina as co-host, and from 9pm, Davina and John Bishop present a brand new Little Britain sketch.

Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
ITV, 9pm
As the remaining six celebrities pass the halfway point of the 12-day mission, they are starting to toughen up, but with one suffering from mosquito bites and another requiring treatment for trench foot, life in the jungle is beginning to take its toll. Arriving at a two-mile cave system, the contestants have to eat tarantulas' legs for breakfast, before using their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents ahead, keeping a lookout for snakes, bats – and their dinner, a fresh pig carcass that Bear has hidden somewhere in the cave.

BRAIN GYM No.315

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



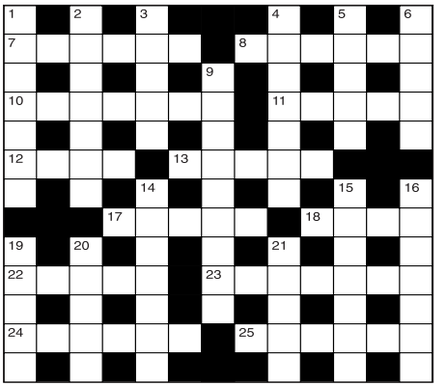
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5 O	18
6	19 R
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
O	R	F	S	I	V	G	X	M	P	Q	U	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
D	A	E	Z	Y	C	W	T	L	J	K	H	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Odd description of something rough (6)
8. Not French apparently, but it could be (6)
10. At length speaks of details (7)
11. Admit defeat and throw it in (5)
12. Has wrongly won a point (4)
13. New bread out of its wrapping (5)
17. Pronounce as absolute (5)
18. It becomes inflamed by the lash (4)
22. Raffle a number, in a manner of speaking (5)
23. Never finishing, due to lack of time? (7)
24. This boat may be tied up (6)
25. Figure it's all round (6)

Down

1. Open exit (7)
2. He has a fish for curing (7)
3. Likely to snap under pressure (5)
4. Stories about raids (7)
5. Opinions wives expressed differently (5)
6. Be quiet with a beer or a mineral (5)
9. Property conveyance? (6,3)
14. Studio that is later converted (7)
15. Soaked in the deepest concoction (7)
16. Lead on? (7)
19. Choose to make a fuss over physical exercise (5)
20. A month in advance (5)
21. Large quantities out of shape (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Foreign (6)
8. Fold (6)
10. Full (7)
11. Cast (5)
12. Location (4)
13. Tranquillity (5)
17. Commonplace (5)
18. Rip (4)
22. Stir (5)
23. Sundry (7)
24. Comrade (6)
25. Hide (6)

Down

1. Quell (7)
2. Contend (7)
3. Tendon (5)
4. Introduction (7)
5. Swift (5)
6. Edge (5)
9. Faulty (9)
14. Liberty (7)
15. Enthusiast (7)
16. Give (7)
19. Surly (5)
20. Hector (5)
21. Cost (5)

Sudoku

				5	9		8	1
	1	7			4			
5			1			6		4
6	3	2		7			1	
				8		7		
				6		5	4	2
4		6						8
				4		1	2	
7	8		3		2			

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	4	8	1	3	9	5	7	6
6	5	9	7	4	2	3	1	8
3	7	1	8	6	5	9	4	2
5	9	7	2	1	8	4	6	3
4	2	3	5	9	6	7	8	1
1	8	6	4	7	3	2	5	9
7	3	2	6	8	4	1	9	5
8	1	5	9	2	7	6	3	4
9	6	4	3	5	1	8	2	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cadet; 4 Stirrup; 8 Outfits; 9 Slice; 10 Shop; 11 Terriers; 13 Chit; 14 Knot; 16 Penchant; 17 Brag; 20 Shrug; 21 Allegro; 22 Silence; 23 Put up. Down: 1 Cross purposes; 2 Ditto; 3 Trim; 4 System; 5 Insuring; 6 Rainment; 7 Pressure group; 12 Michigan; 13 Control; 15 Inmate; 18 Right; 19 Clap. QUICK - Across: 1 Obese; 4 Benefit; 8 Trivial; 9 Clear; 10 Fate; 11 Crotchet; 13 Deep; 14 Very; 16 Impaired; 17 Idea; 20 Naive; 21 Curtail; 22 Elector; 23 Glass. Down: 1 Out of patience; 2 Exist; 3 Evil; 4 Belfry; 5 Niceties; 6 Freshly; 7 Turn the tables; 12 Sediment; 13 Deprive; 15 Fencer; 18 Drama; 19 Prig.

Quiz

1. What is kerosene called in the UK?
2. Who ranks immediately below Lord Chief Justice?
3. In which Australian city was Prince Charles rushed by David Kang?
4. How is paralysis agitans otherwise known?
5. Which US secret society was formed in 1866?
6. How is the rose bay shrub otherwise known?
7. In which religion is nirvana the attainment of perfect serenity?
8. Which two countries share the Pindus Mountains?
9. Which English writer's first novel was Crome Yellow?
10. Of which great orchestra was James Galway a member from 1969-75?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Jimmy Carter; 2 Tottenham Hotspur; 3 Parsifal; 4 Cribbage; 5 John Gummer; 6 F R Leavis; 7 Speed skating; 8 DNA; 9 Flamenco; 10 Southern Cross.

Niner: PARCHMENT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

639 gives an animal,
53124 gives a snake,
23178 gives a bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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New

OLDBURY, Pinkney Place

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Offers around £149,500

New

EDGBASTON, Selsey Road

Deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bed mid terrace, occupying a pleasant position within this convenient neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, dining/sitting room, attractive kitchen, 2 good sized double bedrooms, spacious upstairs bathroom, pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £119,950

New

OLDBURY, Mallard Drive

Deceptively spacious, well presented, modern, 2 bed intermediate starter home occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position within this convenient neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £106,950

New

SMETHWICK, Milton Court, Sandon Road

An opportunity to acquire a spacious, well presented 2 bedroomed flat occupying a pleasant position within this retirement complex, most convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), delightful lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden, pleasant residents lounge and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers in the Region Of £69,950

SMETHWICK, Hales Lane

Delightfully presented, spacious, 3 bed semi detached conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, re-fitted kitchen, attractive conservatory, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and pleasant good sized rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £139,950

SMETHWICK, West Park Road

An extremely spacious, 4 bed traditional style semi detached property within this popular neighbourhood, with pleasant views from the front to local park, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, rear vestibule (with downstairs shower room and w.c off), 4 double bedrooms, bathroom and good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price WAS £269,950 NOW £259,950

SMETHWICK, Hamilton Road

A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, 3 bed end terraced property, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, having double glazing, majority gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, and pleasant rear garden with outside w.c. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain Offers around £109,950

SMETHWICK, The Oval

Deceptive, well proportioned, 2 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c, 2 good sized bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain Offers around £106,000

OLDBURY, The Pineways

Delightfully presented, spacious, considerably improved, 2 bed ground floor flat occupying a pleasant cul-de-sac position, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, delightful spacious lounge, super re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), inner hall, 2 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, pleasant garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain Offers around £86,950

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Lovely Victorian home has so much to offer

A VERY spacious and attractive Victorian end of terrace four-bedroomed home in Eagle Street, Penn Fields, Wolverhampton has tremendous potential for other uses.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £190,000.

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Semi has extended breakfast kitchen

IN a sought-after location, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Belmont Road, Penn, Wolverhampton includes a superb extended kitchen/breakfast room.

It is for sale through Reeds Rains at £160,000 with no chain.

Being well presented it has an entrance hall with stairs off, lounge/dining room with bay window, patio doors and a gas fire, kitchen/breakfast room with an electric double oven, gas hob, stainless steel cooker and space for tall fridge freezer, three bedrooms and a bathroom as well as off-road parking and gardens.

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oulsnam

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

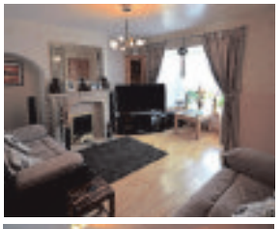
NEW

Chapel Mill, Malt Mill Lane, Halesowen

- Unique Penthouse Apartment
- Open Plan Living Space
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW



Harvest Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Bay Fronted Lounge
- Modern Breakfast Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW

Moat Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern, Extended Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £184,950

NEW

Upper St Marys Road, Bearwood

- Traditional End Terrace
- Close to Warley Woods
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Additional Ground Floor WC
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £139,950

NEW

Forest Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Contemporary Styled Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

NEW PRICE

Pitcairn Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £164,950

Rathbone Road, Bearwood

Offers in the region of £149,950

Merrivale Road, Bearwood

Offers in the region of £124,950

Anderson Road, Bearwood

Offers in the region of £184,950

NEW PRICE

Coplow Street, Edgbaston

- Traditional End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £134,950

Jodie - Sales Negotiator

Jodie joined our team in 2013 as an Administrator and quickly progressed to Sales Negotiator. She is working towards her Level 3 Technical Award in Sale of Residential Property, awarded by the NFOPP (National Federation of Property Professionals). She is a keen negotiator; a real people person with a passion for property! Jodie is positive in her approach, being responsible for registering buyers and finding them their ideal home. She is patient and will always offer guidance to clients at any stage of the process - from sale right through to completion.

In her spare time she likes to socialise with her family and friends and most importantly eat at Nandos!

Oliver Road, Ladywood

Offers in the region of 254,950

Vince Street, Smethwick

NOW AVAILABLE

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £99,950

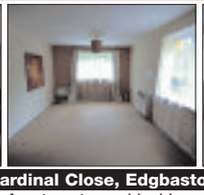
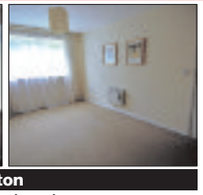
NEW PRICE

Spire Court, Manor Road, Edgbaston

- Modern GF Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Open Plan Kitchen/ Lounge
- Contemporary Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in excess of £125,000

NEW PRICE

Cardinal Close, Edgbaston

- Attractive Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen
- Ideal Investment
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £112,000

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Wednesbury	Tipton	West Bromwich	Willenhall	Walsall	Bilston
0121 222 1301	0121 222 1304	0121 222 1307	01902 505971	01922 460781	01902 505974

Mounts Road, Wednesbury

- A Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Meyrick Road, West Bromwich — NEW

- Modern Build Semi Detached
- Three Bedroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
- No Upward Chain, First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing:

Greenacre Road, Tipton

- Attractive Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Excellent Corner Position
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC

OFFERS AROUND: £182,500
Viewing:

Bridle Grove, West Bromwich — NEW

- Three Bedroom Detached
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £255,000
Viewing:

Sanders Crescent, Tipton

- modern 2.5 storey semi detached town house
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- superb spacious family accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £149,995
Viewing:

Margaret Road, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- First Floor Shower Room
- EPC Rating - E, Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Newcomen Drive, Tipton

- Modern Executive detached
- Sought after location
- Gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £153,950
Viewing:

Harrington Croft, West Bromwich — NEW

- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Room
- , Allocated Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Walton Road, Wednesbury

- Immaculate End Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern First Floor Bathroom
- Energy Rating Awaited, Spacious Lounge With Oak

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Steadman Court, Tipton

- Modern Luxury Second Floor Apartment
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £74,950
Viewing:

Wednesbury Oak Road, Tipton

- immaculate detached dormer bungalow
- upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- superb internal accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC F

OFFERS AROUND: £199,950
Viewing:

Foley Street, Wednesbury

- Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms Including Loft Room
- Large Lounge & Breakfast Kitchen
- , First Floor Family Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
Viewing:

Anson Road, West Bromwich

- Spacious Family End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Good Size Accommodation
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Avern Close, Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Gas Central Heating ● Upvc Double Glazing
- Superbly Presented Accommodation
- 2 Bedrooms ● Garage, EPC C

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995
Viewing:

Keir Hardie Walk, Oldbury — NEW

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Ground Floor W/C
- , First Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing:

Kiers Bridge Close, Tipton

- Modern Attractive Semi Detached
- Excellent Views Overlooking Canal Basin
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 2 Bedrooms ● En suite, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £104,950
Viewing:

Squires Walk, Wednesbury

- An Edwardian 4 Bedroom Butt Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- EPC Rating: D, Dining Room

OFFERS AROUND: £250,000
Viewing:

Alexandra Road, Tipton

- Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Reception Hall
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

Alexandra Crescent, West Bromwich — NEW

- Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- , Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Kelverley Grove, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Cul De Sac Location
- Energy Rating TBC, Through Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

The Property Ombudsman SALES

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NEW — EPC: C

Tipton
Leveson Drive
- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Alarmed
- Garage

£675pcm

EPC: TBC

Tipton
Galton Close
- Three bed detached
- Fully furnished property
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Luxury bathroom
- Private rear garden
- Garage
- Available immediately.

£650pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane
- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road
- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£525pcm

NEW — EPC: B

Wednesbury
Goldby Drive
- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: D

West Bromwich
Greets Green Road
- Two bed terraced house
- GCH
- Double glazing
- Modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Yard storage shed
- Rear garden

£475pcm

REDUCED — EPC: F

DSS ACCEPTED

Tipton
St Marks Road
- Second floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower over
- Communal gardens
- Gas centrally heating
- Unfurnished
- Available immediately

£475pcm

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£50.00 PER ADDITIONAL APPLICANT

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WEST BROMWICH

FOR SALE

Cambridge Street
FOR SALE 3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, central heated and double glazed, bathroom with overhead shower, enclosed rear garden.
£109,500 Offers

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Princes Gate
Modern 2 bedroom apartment, near the M5. Large reception room, Double glazed window, storage heating. Communal car park. Security intercom system to entrance. Available unfurnished.
£525

WEST BROMWICH

NEW

Rydding Square
3 bedroom semi-detached property, large reception room, dining room, kitchen with dining space, downstairs shower room and upstairs bathroom, off road parking, garage, available unfurnished.
£550

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Vicarge Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom property, large through lounge, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, well maintained large rear garden, off road parking, must be viewed
£590

WEST BROMWICH

Sydney Close
3 bedroom property with spacious lounge, ch and dg. Kitchen with dining space. first floor bathroom. off road parking available unfurnished.
£525

Tipton

Avern Close
Modern one bedroom apartment, storage heating, double glazed windows, spacious lounge and bedroom, available unfurnished. designated parking space.
£375

Tipton

AWAITING PICTURE

Kenilworth Close
Lovely 3 bedroom property, large lounge, central heated and double glazed, first floor bathroom, garage and private drive. Unfurnished. Must be viewed.
£575

WEST BROMWICH

Crookhay Lane
Spacious 3 bedroom property, reception room, dining area, central heated and double glazed, rear garden and off road parking, available fully furnished for £600 or part furnished for £575
£575-£600

WEDNESBURY

Manifold Way
Modern
1 bedroom apartment, ch and dg, wood flooring, bathroom with shower. available unfurnished. designated parking space.
£425 pcm

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Elizabeth Road
Very spacious 3 bedroom house, lounge, dining room, first floor bathroom, central heated and double glazed, off road parking, Unfurnished.
£580

WEST BROMWICH

LET

Wood Lane
3 bedroom end of terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg. ground floor bathroom with overhead shower. available unfurnished.
£499 pcm

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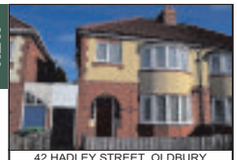
NEW



42 HADLEY STREET, OLDBURY

- Traditional freehold semi-detached
- Double glazed and centrally heated
- Three bedrooms and bathroom with shower
- Attractive lounge
- Impressive open plan dining/kitchen
- Laid out gardens
- INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

170 WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON

- Freehold semi-detached property
- Gas centrally heated
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room, Verandah & kitchen
- Gardens to front and rear with detached garage
- Off-street parking
- In need of cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

PURCHASE PRICE £99,995

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

6 SMITH CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Three bedroomed town house
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Conservatory
- Off-street parking
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £139,950

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

94 BARTLEY WOODS, BARTLEY

- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and en-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen and utility
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Conservatory
- Side garage
- SOLAR PANELS

OFFERS BASED ON £219,950

VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

REDUCED

76 GREENHILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and bathroom
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

34 WILSON ROAD, OLDBURY

- Prime location close to Warley Woods
- Freehold semi-detached property
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Three bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
- Lounge, conservatory, kitchen & small utility
- Off-street parking for two cars
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £174,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

REDUCED

10 WESTFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced property.
- Located close to Smethwick High Street and providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
- Gas centrally heated and fully PVC double glazed.
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and garden.
- Ideally suited for first time buyers.
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

REDUCED

5 SCRIBBANS CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Three bedroomed maisonette
- Gas centrally heated
- Fully tiled bathroom
- In need of improvement
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £51,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

AT

THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

THIMBLEMILL ROAD,
SMETHWICK. B67 6NR

ON

MONDAY 9th MARCH 2015

@ 6.30PM

Lot 1:	134 WIGGIN STREET, LADYWOOD B16 0AH Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced with central heating and double glazing, but needing improvement	£ 70 - 75,000
Lot 2:	23 CLARENDON ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6DA Traditional freehold 2 bedroomed terraced needing improvement	£70 - 75,000
Lot 3:	24 WESTBOURNE ROAD, HANDSWORTH B21 8AT Freehold 2 bedroomed end terraced in need of modernisation	£65 – 70,000
Lot 4:	9 DEXTER HOUSE, FORD STREET, SMETHWICK B67 7QX Centrally heated and double glazed modern 1 bedroomed flat, Ideal investment	£55 – 60,000
Lot 5:	9 YORK AVENUE, WILLENHALL WV13 1JJ Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing full improvement	£75 – 80,000
Lot 6:	13 HIGHFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6AP Freehold double glazed & centrally heated terraced	£85 – 90,000
Lot 7:	40 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8RD Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed terraced, in need of improvement	£65 - 70,000
Lot 8:	13 JACMAR CRESCENT, SMETHWICK B67 7LF Freehold traditional 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi, with garage	£110 – 120,000
Lot 9:	4 BROOK ROAD, OLDBURY B68 8AA Freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached needing f ull improvement	£circa. 70,000
Lot 10:	159 STONY LANE, SMETHWICK B67 7BA Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated semi-detached	£95 – 100,000
Lot 11:	58 CORNWALL AVENUE, OLDBURY B68 0SW Freehold 3 bedroomed mid-town house with double glazing, in need of modernisation	£75 – 80,000
Lot 12:	98 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5JF Freehold centrally heated and double glazed 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of upgrading	£ 90 – 100,000
Lot 13:	43 DURBAN ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 3SH Freehold 2 bedroomed terrace in need of complete refurbishment	£circa. 65,000

REDUCED

94 THE OVAL, SMETHWICK

- Extended & well presented
- Virtually PVC double glazed
- Fully tiled bathroom
- 3bedrooms
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

Viewing : Bearwood Office

25 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD,

- Recently refurbished
- 3 bedrooms
- Downstairs WC
- Potential off-road parking
- Detached garage
- EPC : E

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

Viewings : Bearwood Office

49 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Superbly presented mid-terraced property
- Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
- Gas centrally heated
- Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor
- Lounge, dining room and kitchen
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED on £147,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

11 LAUNDRY ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Freehold end terraced property
- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms and kitchen
- Shower room
- Ideal FTBs
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

Viewing Bearwood Office

32 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

- Well presented ground floor flat
- PVC double glazed and well heated
- Gated development
- Superb through lounge/dining room
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen and bathroom
- Garage and communal gardens
- FULL INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £84,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

68 FLEMING ROAD, QUINTON

- Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
- Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
- Spacious lounge and kitchen/breakfast room
- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- In need of some cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON 109,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

1 HEATH GREEN GROVE,

- End terraced property
- Extremely convenient location
- Freehold & Chain Free
- Three bedrooms
- Two living rooms, kitchen, bathroom & small garden
- Centrally heated and double glazed
- IN NEED OF RENOVATION
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £75,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

15 DAWSON STREET, SMETHWICK

- Freehold mid-terraced property located in Bearwood just off the main high street
- Providing easy access to Birmingham City Centre.
- Fully Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed.
- Two double bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and garden
- Requiring cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £89,000

Viewings Bearwood Office

5 CLARENDON ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Well presented
- Two double bedrooms
- Two living rooms
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- NO CHAIN
- EPC : E

INSPECTION ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

Viewings Bearwood Office

70 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Freehold mid-terraced property
- Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and refitted fully tiled bathroom
- Neatly laid out garden to the rear
- Ideal FTBs
- INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
- ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

28 DUNSFORD ROAD BEARWOOD

- Easy access to Birmingham city centre
- Gas centrally heated
- PVC double glazed
- Two double bedrooms and first floor bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room and kitchen
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £127,950

VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

3,316 HAGLEY ROAD, EDGBASTON

- First floor one bedroomed flat
- Centrally heated
- Communal gardens
- Ideal for FTBs or investors
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £87,500

Viewing Bearwood Office

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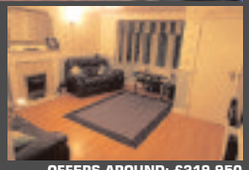
NEW

TIPTON ST MARTINS DRIVE
- A four bedroom detached property
- Lounge, dining room & sitting room
- Fitted kitchen with utility
- Down stairs WC
- En-Siute to master bedroom
- Hot tub in rear garden
- Garage & Driveway
- Rear garden



OFFERS AROUND: £219,950

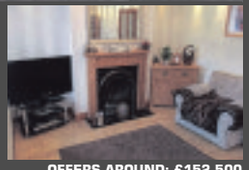
NEW

TIPTON THETFORD CLOSE
- A splendid example of a three bed extended detached family home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Study/ Office
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Utility Room
- Downstairs Shower Room

OFFERS AROUND: £180,000

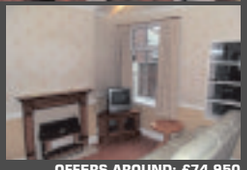
NEW

TIPTON ANDREW ROAD
- Much improved semi on sought after development
- 3 very well proportioned bedrooms/4th ground floor bedroom
- Lovely lounge with open plan conservatory
- Bedroom 4/playroom
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Laundry room and fitted cloakroom
- Backs on to playing fields



OFFERS AROUND: £152,500

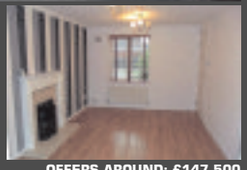
TIPTON DUDLEY ROAD
- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs WC
- First floor family bathroom
- Double glazing and central heating (where specified)
- Rear garden
- In need of modernisation



OFFERS AROUND: £74,950

NEW

TIPTON HAINES CLOSE
- Superior double fronted semi detached
- Cul-de-sac location on sought after development
- Much improved with conservatory
- 3 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms
- Refitted bathroom with shower
- Kitchen with appliances
- Double glazing and central heating
- Vacant possession



OFFERS AROUND: £147,500

NEW

TIPTON CENTRAL AVENUE
- 4 bedroom family home
- Semi detached near all amenities
- Double glazed and central heating
- Vacant possession
- Off road parking
- Enclosed garden
- Ideal family home

OFFERS AROUND: £114,995

REDUCED

TIPTON OXFORD WAY
- Modern detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Second lounge/ study
- En-suite to master

OFFERS AROUND: £214,950

REDUCED

TURTON ROAD TIPTON
- Large semi detached house
- Four good bedrooms
- Central heating and double glazing
- Downstairs bathroom
- Extra upstairs w/c
- Lounge and kitchen
- Reasonable gardens
- Close to school and amenities

OFFERS AROUND: £122,500

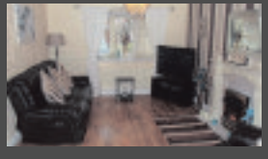
NEW

TIPTON SHAKESPEARE ROAD
- Three bed semi detached family home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed & Gas Fired Central Heating (Where Specified)
- Off Street Parking for Two Vehicles

OFFERS AROUND: 79,250

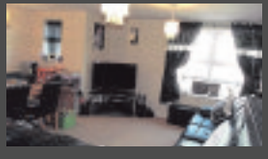
TIPTON WILLIAM BARROWS WAY
- A four bedroom end terraced property
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Downstairs w/c
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Family bathroom
- Double glazing & central heating (where specified)
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: 149,995



TIPTON WHITEHOUSE STREET
- Well maintained and improved town house
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Though lounge / dining room
- Condensing central heating
- Double glazing
- Nicely presented kitchen and bathroom
- Block paved off road parking
- Downstairs WC

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950



TIPTON JONAH DRIVE
- Beautifully presented and improved apartment
- 2 bedrooms, master fitted
- Large, airy living room / dining area
- Kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with shower
- Ideally located adjacent to Great Bridge
- Perfect location for motorway network / amenities
- Excellent first purchase or investment property

OFFERS AROUND: £87,500

Well-presented detached on market for £289,995

THIS modern well presented five bedroomed detached property in John Wesley Way, Wednesbury is for sale through Connells at £289,995.

It has an entrance hall, a lounge with patio doors to the garden, a dining room, a kitchen/diner with light wood-effect doors, a utility room, WC, first floor master bedroom with built-in wardrobes and an en suite, bedroom two with wardrobes and bedroom three, two second floor bedrooms and a shower room.

Contact Connells on 0121 5562338 or visit the website www.connells.co.uk

Bartrams

TEL. 0121 601 9370
www.bartrams.com

HARTLAND ROAD, B71 3DE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£164,950

REFORM STREET, B70 7PE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC TBC Freehold

£159,950

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB

- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Consevetory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

Goldfield Court, Dartmouth Street,

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Two Bedrooms
- Over 50's Residential Living
- Leasehold, EPC TBC

£24,950 25% Shared Ownership

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

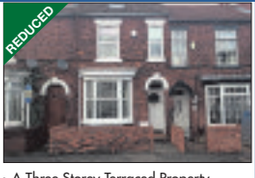
£139,950

WOODRUFF WAY, WS5 4SB

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£129,950

HYDES ROAD, WS10 9SX



- A Three Storey Terraced Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Loft Conversion
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£133,999

SHAW ROAD, DY4 7QA

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- No Upward Chain, Freehold
- EPC RATING D

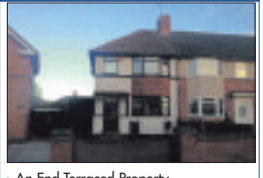
£105,000

CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3DX

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms, Freehold
- Sought After Location
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£134,950

CRANKHALL LANE, WS10 0DY



- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating
- EPC RATING E

£99,950

POMMEL CLOSE, WS5 4QE

- A Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Central Heating, Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING C, Leasehold

£79,000

CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HU

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING B, Freehold

WAS £199,950 NOW £195,950

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HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£249,950

HOPE ROAD, DY4 7DF

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Ideal First Time Buy/ Investors
- Driveway, No Upward Chain
- Freehold, EPC TBC

£99,950

BASSETT ROAD, WS10 0HH

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold
- ONLINE AUCTION

Starting Pice £69,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EF

- A Mid Terrace Property
- Two/Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- EPC RATING F, Freehold

£99,950

HILLARY AVENUE, WS10 0HE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Lounge, Off Road Parking
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£124,950

ARLINGTON ROAD, B71 1AA

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£169,950

Bartrams Sales and Lettings Limited
132 Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3HP
E-mail:enquires@bartrams.com
NAEA rightmove.co.uk The Property Ombudsman

Wednesbury

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Goodchilds FOR SALE

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

Doulton Road, Rowley Regis

- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIR £219,950

Pemberton Crescent, Wednesbury

- Detached Property
- Four bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- downstairs W/C
- Kitchen/Diner
- Off road Parking

Asking price of £210,000

Grayling Close, Wednesbury

- DETACHED
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- ENSUITE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- DINING ROOM
- REAR GARDEN
- KITCHEN

OIR £199,950

Brookfield Way, Tipton

- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA

OIR £187,500

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- KITCHEN
- GARAGE
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- REAR GARDEN

OIR £140,000

Jonah Drive, Tipton

- EX SHOWHOME
- Three Storey
- Three Bedroom
- Lounge
- Family Kitchen/Diner
- Ensuite Shower Room

Offers in Excess of £140,000

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury

- SEMI-DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- MODERN THROUGHOUT
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- GROUND FLOOR W.C

£135,000

Hall Street East, Wednesbury

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Old Park Road, Wednesbury

- Terraced
- Four Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

OIR Of £128,000

Darlaston Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- Good Sized Rooms
- Driveway
- Double Glazing
- Priced To Sell
- Three Bedrooms

OIR of £125,000

Romulus Close, Birmingham

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

Guide Price £124,999

Durham Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs Wetroom
- Upstairs Family Bathroom

Offers in Excess of £120,000

Wills Avenue, West Bromwich

- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

£120,000

Tame Street, West Bromwich

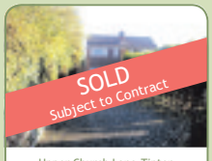
- Mid Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking
- Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom

Offers in excess of £120,000

Horseley Heath, Tipton

- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Garage

OIR £119,000



Upper Church Lane, Tipton

- Three Bedroom House
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom

£117,000

Cobham Road, Wednesbury

- SEMI DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING

OIR £110,000

Salter Road, Tipton

- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DG & GCH

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Johnson Close, Wednesbury

- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- ●●REDUCED●●
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £104,950

Beech Road, Wednesbury

- Three Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Ensuite in Master Bedroom

OIR Of £100,000

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Howard Street, Tipton
- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Shower Room
- Re-Styled Kitchen
- Large Side Entrance Porch

£99,995

St Georges Close, Wednesbury
- Mid Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £99,950

Toll End Road, Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Well Located

OIR £99,950

Charlotte Road, Wednesbury
- End Terrace
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge/Diner
- Front & Rear Garden
- Three Bedrooms

£92,500

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Westbury Road, Wednesbury
- End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
-
- Three Bedrooms

£89,950

Willingsworth Road, Wednesfield
- Mid Terrace
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Four Bedrooms

£89,950

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom &Downstairs WC
- Ideal For Investors
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Garage &Off Road Parking
- Will Bring in £560PCM

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIR £87,500

Dingley Road, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Priced To Sell
- Fitted Kitchen
- No Chain
- Three Bedrooms

£86,950

Herberts Park Road, Wednesbury
- TWO BEDROOMS
- TERRACED HOUSE
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- RE STYLED KITCHEN
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- REAR GARDEN
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- DOUBLE GLAZING

OIR £85,000

Booth Street, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000

Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- No Chain
- Three Bedrooms

£79,950

Bagnalls Wharf, Wednesbury
- Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Parking Areas

£77,500

Whitehall Road, West Bromwich
- Well Presented Flat
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ample Storage
- Communal Gardens
- Ideal Investment
- Ground Floor

£74,995

Dudley Road, Tipton
- TERRACED
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS TOILET
- REAR GARDEN
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- MUST VIEW!!

OIR £74,950

Rugeley Close, Tipton
- First Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Perfect For First Time Buyers Or Investors
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom

OIR £59,950

THE POWER OF THE NETWORK - 17 AWARD WINNING OFFICES ACROSS THE REGION

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- Tamworth
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- Walsall
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Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

IT'S NOT LUCK WHEN YOU WIN AWARDS EVERY YEAR

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE JUDGES COMMENTS

BRONZE - BEST MEDIUM ESTATE AGENCY - LETTINGS 2008

Goodchilds has evolved from a family-run investment company into a successful lettings agency with six offices. They are quick to rent their stock and are rightly proud of their Let By presence in the area. This is a team which looks at the lettings market through the eyes of the landlord and really delivers what's promised.

GOLD - BEST ESTATE AGENCY FRANCHISE 2009

Goodchilds set itself up as a franchise operation from day one and it shows. Their systems and processes are second to none and as a result the growth of the business has been built on a solid foundation but not at the cost of initiative and individuality of the company. Growth is controlled through a combination of thorough vetting procedures for potential franchisees and strong support for franchisees. All franchises are visited once a week and there is real emphasis on measuring activity and productivity to ensure transparency through all areas of the business however there is a good balance between autonomy from the central office and control for the franchisees. Strong on their brand values, Goodchilds manages to successfully marry this with flexibility for their franchisees. Not a business in a box - Goodchilds is a fantastic example of how to do it right and their gold award is well deserved.

SILVER - BEST ESTATE AGENCY FRANCHISE 2010

Goodchilds cares about its business and the overriding aim is to provide a platform for franchisees to launch successfully then to work together to build a business according to franchisees aspirations. The strength of the systems and processes behind the scenes is commendable and really illustrates that Goodchilds has been a franchise operation from day one. Autonomy is key and branches show a degree of individuality whilst maintaining the branding and high standards set out by the parent company. Franchisees are offered excellent networking opportunities and the chance to learn and share with each other, a culture singled out by the judges as commendable, also commenting that the commitment, innovation and care demonstrated by Goodchilds was a pleasure to judge.

BRONZE - BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE 2011

Rather than cutting costs, the Goodchilds team took the decision to actively seek new business. Thorough training programmes educated the entire team about the economic problems with higher incentives and improved feedback introduced to really motivate everyone to get results. This approach worked as the staff followed their instincts to increase their fees, produce better quality work and used their initiative to support their clients. Involvement in their local community has also served to build team morale and build their brand and ethics among potential new clients.

GOLD - BEST MEDIUM MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY 2012

Judges agreed that Goodchilds was highly deserving of this award. The panel was impressed with the agency's focus on technology. The team demonstrates high levels of customer service, which is maintained through the provision of internal and external trainers. Within 12 months' employment with the agency, new-starters are required to pass an industry-approved qualification. The agency currently retains 98% of landlord clients, with judges commending its solid business systems and processes, which they agreed made Goodchilds worthy of this award win.

SILVER - BEST MEDIUM MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY 2013

This is an enthusiastic agency focusing closely on customer service feedback, to the extent that it has streamlined the response mechanisms for ease of measuring reactions and implementing improvements. The clear and defined KPIs help the team with responsibility as everyone knows their role and what is expected of them. The inclusive culture is based around family values and this is imparted to customers as well. Training is bespoke and tailored to an individual so any weaker areas can be addressed and remedied immediately. The back office systems are strong and keep the directors fully aware of everything, with automated emails sent according to the customer's file and status being updated as it should be i.e. following viewing feedback. The directors want their business to be exceptional, and without exception the entire team is excellent at listening and communicating with clients.

LATEST AWARDS FROM 2014:

SILVER - BEST MEDIUM MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY 2014

Goodchilds understands the importance of delivering on a promise, and accept there will be consequences if it fails to meet this standard. It is this attitude that led to the design and implementation of the 43 day challenge. Vendors can expect regular updates via their dedicated sales progressor and the customer charter sets out the level of service they will receive - this is given to them upon instruction and followed through the entire process. The directors also take an innovative approach to their staff so they operate a standard contract but also ask new recruits what they personally value from employers and tailor the benefits and rewards accordingly. Although the market is improving, Goodchilds is seeking to maintain the exemplary standards it adhered to when the market was tough; this attitude should be commended.

SILVER - LARGE CUSTOMER SERVICE 2014

As a franchise operation, the standards were outstanding. The directors at this family run firm understand the importance of customer perception and there are a number of systems and processes in place to ensure consistency of standards across the entire operation. There were a number of examples where they have prioritised the customer experience over their profit margin, so they enjoy high levels of repeat and referral business due to this long term view. The Goodchilds team wants to do their part to improve the standards and perception of estate agents and they have built their business on a strong foundation of honesty and trust with a reputation in their area for straight talking. The directors' knowledge is exemplary and this is filtered down to the rest of the team. Customers using Goodchilds can feel assured that they're in good hands.

GOLD - BEST MEDIUM MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY 2014

Goodchilds is all about service and control of experience. It offers a 100% no quibble rent guarantee scheme included within the fees so if a tenant goes over 14 days in arrears, Goodchilds pays the landlord directly then seeks to recover the costs in its own time saving the landlord time and hassle. This also allows the team to spot early warning signs with tenants and means they can work with them to exit the tenancy and take something more affordable if necessary. They work hard to imbue confidence; another great idea is the "Be a Good Neighbour" initiative whereby if a property goes up for letting, they contact the neighbours around the property in order to keep them informed and onside with the new tenants. The directors recruit staff and franchisees who want a career as opposed to a job and offer flexibility and reward, recently enabling a young employee to become a franchise owner rather than lose them to the competition.

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Goodchilds
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Woden Road North, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Jasmine Way, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

Mill Street, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fires in kitchen and Living Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Tame Crossing, Wednesbury
- Modern Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating

Monthly Rental Of £475

Orchard Rise, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

Oberon Grove, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Great Barr, West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Maisonate
- Fitted Kitchen
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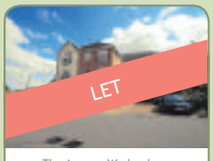

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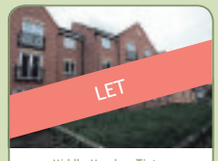

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- Electric Heating
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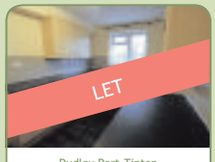

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, March 5, 2015

All about high-end luxury as old and new combine

By Matt Kimberley

There's a new guy in town with an old name, one that might just ruffle a few feathers at British favourites Bentley and Rolls-Royce.

The Maybach name is back, and this time it means business. The old standalone Maybach was flawed from the very beginning, built as it was on a platform old enough to have been shared with the Ark. But what you see here isn't a Maybach: it's a Mercedes-Maybach.

It's the new flagship Mercedes S-Class, built under a double-barrelled name that could, if consumer demand is there, mirror the Mercedes-AMG badge with multiple models atop various ranges. AMG cars are built for high-end luxury and giggles, but the Mercedes-Maybach is all about comfort and exceptional indulgence.

It's a long old thing, adding another 20cm between the wheels compared to the long-wheelbase S-Class. So no, it's not short of legroom. The roofline is higher and stays that way for longer, the rear doors are a different length and there are small 'double-M' badges on the C-pillars.

Stalwart

The force is strong with the finest S-Class, and always has been. Apparently customers wanted more exclusivity and even more of the stuff that makes the S-Class such a stalwart at the top of its class, so Mercedes has combined the famous badge with another one to form the new standard-bearer. Where the old Maybach had image problems, its spiritual successor has big-time pedigree – albeit in a less showy way.

Nit-pickers will note that part of the boot is taken up by the fridge unit, but being able to keep your champagne chilled is clearly far more important. To drink it there are two silver-plated champagne flutes in a fold-down tray between the two rear seats – but only if you specify the £7,200 First Class rear seat set-up.

There's enough legroom to allow your St Bernards to curl up at your feet, and they'll be comforted by the standard luxury lamb's wool floor mats that replicate an expensive living room feel. You're actually meant to take your shoes off to appreciate it (and it's totally worth it).

To be frank, few owners will actually drive it themselves, but if they did they'd be astonished at how relentlessly fast it is thanks to a 530-horsepower V12 engine. Refinement and comfort in any seat is amazing, with the softest leathers and seats that, in the rear, can give you six different types of back or shoulder massage. Six! And don't forget seven colours of ambient lighting, of course.

Comfy

Heating, cooling and up to 43.5 degrees of backrest tilt are also rather nice, but it's the leg rest that steals the show. Hold a button down and the front passenger seat moves forwards, the leg rest rises and you eventually find yourself as comfy as if you were in your own reclining armchair at home. Probably comfier. All the toys you'd expect on the 'king among S-Classes' are standard. Go forth and meddle.

When you look at what you get, £167,000 is a steal. Bear with me on this. The big double-M is built as well as a Bentley but has more technology and is arguably even better to drive. The only thing it lacks is the statement-making looks of a Rolls-Royce, but not everyone wants those.

Who would buy one? Media moguls, Mafia kingpins, ultra-exclusive chauffeurs and more will all want to get their hands on a Mercedes-Maybach, although only 100 or so will sell in the UK every year. Any S-Class is a brilliant luxury car, but the new maestro is a bit special. Below-the-radar on the outside but above all but the loftiest of expectations, this is the sober thinker's Rolls-Royce Ghost.

This car summed up in a single word: Impressive.

If this car was a vineyard it would be one of the Champagne region's finest: magnificent to behold and full of rich bounties.

TESTED

Mercedes-Maybach S600, £167,000
Engine: 6.0-litre V12 petrol unit producing 523bhp and 612lb/ft
Transmission: Seven-speed automatic driving all the rear wheels
Performance: Top speed 155mph, 0-62mph in 5.0 seconds
Economy: 24.1mpg combined
Emissions: 274g/km of CO2

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Hot-hatch icon reborn in race car for the road

Commercial feature

After a five year wait, 2015 sees the arrival of the world's keenly anticipated hot hatch, the Honda Civic Type R. Billed as a 'race car for the road', the all-new Civic Type R will set new standards in the high-performance front-wheel drive hatchback segment.

The production version of Honda's latest hot hatch icon was revealed for the first time at the 85th Geneva Motor this week.

Type R vehicles have garnered a cult following around the world and the new model more than lives up to the high expectations. A world-first application of Honda's new 2.0-litre VTEC TURBO engine, aggressive function-led styling, and pioneering new chassis technologies combine to deliver one of the most immersive and rewarding driving experiences available in any sector.

The new 2015 Civic Type R will be powered by the most extreme and high-performing engine in the 22-year history of the red 'H' badge, signalling the start of a new performance era for the Honda brand.

At the heart of the Civic Type R is an all-new, direct-injected turbocharged 2.0 litre VTec Turbo petrol engine, which delivers power, torque and performance figures unmatched in the front-wheel drive hot hatch segment. Peak power output is 310PS at 6,500rpm, and peak torque is 400Nm at 2,500rpm – both higher than for any previous Honda Type R model.

Red-lining at 7,000rpm, the engine – part of Honda's next-generation Earth Dreams Technology series – features an advanced new turbocharger with VTec technology that boosts low-end torque and delivers sustained acceleration.

The Civic Type R's blistering performance is unmatched in the front-wheel drive hot hatch segment: the 0-to-100km/h (62 mph) sprint is covered in just 5.7 seconds – making it the fastest accelerating performance front-wheel drive hatchback – and top speed, where permitted, is a class-leading 270km/h (167 mph).

Rewarding

The new engine is mated to a slick-shifting six-speed manual transmission, safeguarding an intimate, rewarding connection with the drivetrain, and power is directed through the front wheels.

The styling changes that are unique to the Civic Type R give the car an aggressive, purposeful stance, yet almost all have a functional purpose. The sleek and aerodynamically-efficient design reflects a car developed to perform at speed. The focus on aerodynamics has ensured high-speed stability and high levels of downforce.

To achieve this aim, the Civic Type R was subject to exhaustive aerodynamic analysis, testing and development. The development team tirelessly pursued its objectives through computer-based CFD modelling and wind tunnel testing at Honda's dedicated automotive motorsports facility in Sakura, Japan; home of Honda's Formula One engine development.

A new, almost completely flat underside aids airflow under the vehicle and combines with a rear diffuser to optimise downforce – effectively 'sucking' the car onto the road.

The rear wing has been reimagined from the Type R Concept. The structure of the airfoil – its angle, height and shape as well as its vertical end plates – have been carefully engineered to optimise downforce without causing a significant increase in drag at higher speeds. This helps improve road-holding abilities, particularly through high-speed corners.

A wide front splitter and deep side skirts also manage airflow and reduce lift, while the front bumper has been shaped specifically to inhibit air turbulence around the front wheels, enhancing high-speed stability and reducing lift forces.

To help the driver manage the Type R's power, the car is equipped with a high performance Brembo brake package, developed specifically for the car. A number of innovative new suspension systems, unique to the Type R, have been introduced to produce rewarding handling characteristics and to maximise power transfer to the road.

The new Civic Type R will mark the debut of the new '+R' button that increases the response of various chassis and drivetrain systems. The result is an even more intense driving experience, ideal for the track and for the genuine sports-driving enthusiast.

When +R mode is activated, engine responsiveness is heightened, with torque-mapping changed to a more aggressive and performance-focused setting. Steering receives reduced power assistance and is therefore more responsive to driver inputs, and basic damping force from the new four-point Adaptive Damper System is increased by 30 per cent. This means the behaviour of the car is firmer and more agile for high-performance handling.

The all-new Honda Civic Type R will go on sale across Europe from this summer. Full vehicle specifications will be announced in due course.

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New Suzuki Vitara builds on acclaim earned since 1988 launch

By James Parker

Ever since its market launch in 1988, the Suzuki Vitara series has earned high acclaim for stylish, city-orientated designs, compact and easy to manage dimensions, good on-road performance and genuine off-road capability. The series has evolved through changes in body size and powertrain.

Now, more than 25 years after the original model's debut, the Vitara heritage is embodied in a fresh sport utility vehicle incarnation.

The all-new Vitara has smaller dimensions to meet contemporary needs and incorporates Suzuki's cutting-edge Allgrip four-wheel-drive system as an option.

Advanced safety and connectivity equipment is available and Vitara also enables owners to express themselves through various personalisation options. Prices start at £13,999 on the road.

Standard equipment specification highlights for SZ4 include seven airbags, 16in alloy wheels, DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps.

SZ-T adds 17in silver painted alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, smartphone link audio and navigation system.

Moving up, SZ5 adds LED projector headlights, 17in polished alloy wheels, suede seat fabric, keyless entry with start button, adaptive cruise control, radar brake support and panaoramic sunroof.

Personalisation

From the initial development stage, Vitara was designed with personalisation in mind.

Diverse exterior colours and a range of design details enable owners to specify their Vitara to their individual tastes. Customers can choose from 10 body colours which include two new ones as well as five two-tone combinations. The two new colours are Atlantis Turquoise Pearl Metallic and Horizon Orange Metallic.

Several other items are available to further personalise the Vitara interior and exterior trim detailing, including instrument panel trim (turquoise, orange, white, or piano black), ventilation louvre rings (turquoise, orange, white, or piano black) and centrally located clock.

Available as a £500 option, owners can also further emphasise their new Vitara's on- or off-road credentials by choosing from two packages:

Urban package adds sophistication and consists of fog lamp bezels (chrome-plated), body-side mouldings, and a roof spoiler.

Rugged package emphasises SUV toughness. It consists of front and rear skid plates, fog lamp bezels, body-side mouldings, and loading edge protection.

Engines

The new Vitara is powered by the M16A 1.6-litre petrol engine or the D16AA 1.6-litre DDiS.

With the petrol option, friction reductions combined with weight savings in the engine and related components help achieve excellent fuel economy together with high output and torque.

For the diesel engine, a new exhaust gas recirculation system and an electronically controlled variable geometry turbocharger help achieve powerful, torquey performance together with low emissions and Euro 6.

The new Vitara's CO2 emissions are low thanks to the use of high tensile steel and other weight-saving measures in the body plus an engine auto stop start system which shuts down the engine when stationary.

The CO2 emissions for the petrol engine with two-wheel-drive/manual transmission are 123g/km and 127g/km for the petrol engine with two-wheel-drive/six-speed automatic transmission.

Four-wheel-drive is typically seen as detrimental to fuel economy and emissions performance.

By contrast, Suzuki's Allgrip system enables CO2 emissions that are remarkably low for a four-wheel-drive SUV with figures of 130g/km with five-speed manual transmission and 131g/km with six-speed automatic transmission.

The new Vitara also has outstandingly low CO2 emissions with the DDiS engine, emitting just 106g/km with two-wheel-drive/six-speed manual

There's a comprehensive list of active and passive safety equipment including radar brake support system available on SZ5 models, light, impact absorbing body, speed limiter, 0electronic stability programme, and tyre pressure monitoring system.

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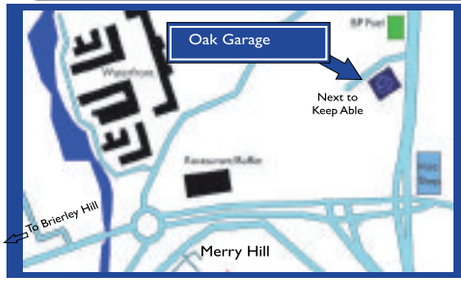

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A full time Traffic Information Operator position has become available in the INRIX Incident Group (IIG) operations centre based in Quinton, Birmingham.
You will be fully trained by us to capture live traffic information and data for North America which will then be used in real-time by some of the largest and most well-known organisations and companies in the world.
The role is for the following hours: Monday - Friday, 10am-6pm, 40 hours per week
Please send CV and covering letter to Alex Gale via email: alex.gale@inrix.com
Equality of opportunity is at the heart of our recruitment process. You'll be judged on your suitability for the job and nothing else.

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 318 4dr, 02 reg, full leather interior, fully loaded, full MoT, serviced, must be seen. £1,650 ono. 0121 360 0539 / 07939 607161.

CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE
2003, 108,500 miles, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, cruise control, diesel, alloys, CD.
£1,600 ono.
07724 773982.

SELLING YOUR CAR?
We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£19.50 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

FIAT BRAVO 2 litre Multijet Sport Diesel. White, 165bhp, 2009, (95), 51k miles 10 months MoT, service history, very good condition, genuine sale. £4,850. 01952 813472.

FORD FOCUS 1.6LX, hatchback, blue, 05 reg, private plate, 45k, fsh, AC, etc, diamond bright polished, excellent. £2,500. 0121 588 3228,

FORD FOCUS SPORT 1.6, 2006, 5 door, petrol, 25,000 miles, good condition, MoT October, £3,200. Telephone 01922 412705.

MERCEDES SLK 200
Convertible, 2003, black, 51,000 miles, F.S.H, 12 months MoT. AMG alloy wheels. Private plate included. Immaculate condition.
£5,795
07976 676 422.

SAAB CONVERTIBLE 9-3 LINEAR 2.0L
2007, 46,000 miles, black, petrol, air con, alloys, ½ leather, fsh, MoT, excellent condition, lady owner.
£3,900 ono.
01384 394803.

SSANGYONG KYRON SX AUTO ESTATE
diesel, black, MoT'd, excellent condition, full leather, bluetooth and cruise control,
£3,590.
01543 451405. 07768 913434.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

AUTOMATIC FIAT Punto, 51 plate, 7 months MoT, drives very well, £595. 01543 876968 / 07989 909746.

CITROEN C3 2004, MoT, blue, 58,000 miles, EW, AC, air bag, stereo / CD player, £1,400. Reluctant sale. 07647 266236.

CITROEN C5, 2.0 Diesel, 2003, MoT,
£450.
0121 533 9275.

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000
Open every day
Citroen Picasso Diesel
55 Reg Beige MOT
December £1,275
01902 490555
Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY
www.bmamotors.co.uk

CITROEN XSARA Picasso, 1.6, 2001, blue, MoT August 15, 68,462 miles, good condition, £595. ono. 07971 522797.

DAEWOO MATIZ SE+ 5dr, 02, MoT, CD, power steering, Very nice car. Lady owner, £550. 07486 241 658.

MG ZT Plus 2004, full MoT, low miles, 1.8, CD, alloys, ES, very nice condition, £650. 07486 189023.

PEUGEOT 206 3 door, 1.4, 2004, £1,375 ono.
07444 072591.

PEUGEOT 206 LX HDi diesel, 52 reg, MoT Sept, CD, Elecs, power steering, alloys, drives well. Nice car. £500. 07486 189 010.

PEUGEOT 406 ESTATE
2003, 116,000 miles, silver, air con, MoT, diesel.
£790 ono.
07791 808779.

ROVER MG ZS 2002, mechanically good. Long MoT, £550. 07543 919 296.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Estate, 1700cc white, 51 plate diesel, spare or repair, MoT April 15, £250 ono. 07961 441390.

commercial vehicles

FIAT DUCATO VAN, 2002, 125,000 miles, white, air bag, long MoT, diesel, cat c. £750 ono.
07717 456116.

driving tuition

Homer's
Mini, Clio, Corsa, Fiesta, Punto, 207, KA, Fiat 500, Yaris.
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
MANUAL & AUTOMATIC
ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
07970 200066 / 01922 780250
01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

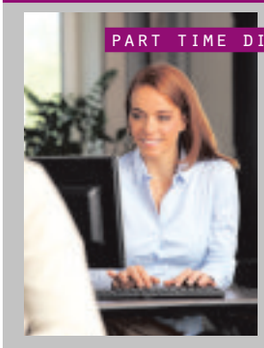
GENERIC XOR 50 MOPED 2013, only done 700 miles, been stored in garage for 12 months. £650.
01889 621904.

vehicle hire

BEST PRICE CAR + VAN HIRE Daily,Weekly, Call Practical 0121 556 1315 practical.co.uk

turn to page 43

MNA Media



PART TIME DISTRIBUTION ADMINISTRATOR

MNA Media, publishers of the Express & Star, Shropshire Star and their associated weekly newspapers has the following vacancy working within the Express Distribution team at our Black Lake, West Bromwich office.

The successful applicant will be able to demonstrate excellent administration and communication skills together with a good working knowledge of all Microsoft products. You will assist the Leaflets Sales Representative and the Distribution Manager with their weekly tasks which will include analysing customer survey reports, dealing with distributors and agents together with leaflet bookings and promotions.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £10,396, 25 days holiday per calendar year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 27.5 hours per week working between Monday & Friday.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR FRIENDLY, ENTHUSIASTIC AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DISTRIBUTION TEAM PLEASE SEND YOUR CURRENT CV AND COVER LETTER TO:
PERSONNEL@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK
POSTAL APPLICATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
EXPRESS & STAR, 51-53 QUEEN STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON WV1 1ES
CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2015.

recruitment feature

CROSS ROADS CARE

CARER SUPPORT STAFF
Required
We are recruiting in **Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton**

We have fantastic opportunities for people who wish to work within our charity to support people living in their own homes, who have a range of health and social care needs.

- **Experience and qualification an asset, (NVQ 2 and 3), although full training will be provided.**
- **Excellent rates of pay.**
- **Own transport essential.**
- **Day time early mornings, evenings, weekends: Night rota, Bank and casual shifts available.**
- **Minimum of 16 hours per week - We have a variety of shift patterns**
- **Government Pension Scheme.**

Contact us on: 0121 553 6483 during office hours, 8.30 a.m - 4.00 p.m
Email: info@sandwellcrossroads.org
Website: www.sandwellcrossroads.org
Early application advised!

Crossroads is an equal opportunities employer
All positions are subject to references and DBS clearance
Charity registration no. 1040679
Company Registered in England No. 2950188
carerstrust

MORE CATEGORIES
MORE CLASSIFICATIONS
MORE CHOICE
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE

01902 628060 or 0800 389 6788

Lines open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Subject to terms

wolverhampton properties

- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

we can buy your house in 2 days

RAMSDENS Property

WE PAY CASH!

SOLD

SELL FAST

- Property investor needs properties in your area
- Cash payments
- We will cover all your fees
- Quicker service

AND GET A BETTER PRICE

01922 689023
0800 731 1160

BCH BLACK COUNTRY HOMES

WE PAY 100%

of purchase price

We buy any house EVERYTIME

30 YEARS Experience

- We are a family run local business.
- Buying properties for over 30 years.
- A fair offer from people you can trust.
- No fees - Free solicitors.

Call Stan on

Text GOAL To 88802 and we will call you back now

WE BUY LAND
commercial and industrial premises shops, factories, building plots...
.....even your garden!

www.blackcountry-homes.co.uk

Freephone 0800 032 1718 24 hrs | Local number 01902 628047 24 hrs SOLD!

LOOK

WE BUY ANY HOUSE

national homeowners helpline.co.uk

in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

WE PAY MORE

ANY AREA ANY CONDITION *PI Group

*subject to terms

24-7 0800 085 6626

24-7 0121 274 0398

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pink run by women

*subject to terms
Property Investment Group

sell quick

- No Fees*
- Any property
- Any condition
- Free confidential service
- Any area*
- Repossessions stopped
- Deceased estates

0800 169 1118 call free 24 hours 01384 226087

Private Investor PI

We are looking for houses in your area. We will take any type of property in any condition. Call us first - highest prices paid

Telephone 01922 689023

straight forward investment solutions

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

I pay 100% of purchase price

Call now for the best price on your house

- Guaranteed offer*
- Any condition
- Free solicitors
- No fees*

* Terms apply

GUARANTEED

24 hours Free phone or landline 0800 783 2822 01384 226086

Dewmark Homes
Part of the PI Group

STOP WE PAY MORE!

100% every time* Any Property*
Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Condition*

0800 313 4566

01384 226086

PI Group
*Subject to terms

SICK of trying to sell your house

Call the HOUSE DOCTOR
Now for the best price

0800 783 3225
01922 689023

ABCD

Better Cash Deal

Its a simple as that, you get the best deal on your home from FIRST GENERAL HOMES

0121 308 7786
0800 917 1233

One phone call solves all your problems

sell your house now

A guaranteed offer, no fees, fast completion, any condition, any circumstances

local investor

01902 628047
0800 633 5226

Sell your house

We are just a phone call away

- Any circumstances
- Any condition
- No fees - fast completion

0800 066 5558
0121 274 0398

Cash paid for your property
Guaranteed offer*
Free solicitors - no fees*

NOW

call us
0800 085 2455
0121 308 7786 24/7

Aston Wood Properties

PI Group
*Subject to terms

---

the name you can trust
Harrison Fowler
Any property, Any condition
FREE valuation
FREE solicitors
No obligation
No fees
Fast completion

0800 587 2422 / 01902 628060 24 hours

STOP! problem property?

Structural problems, mine shafts, non standard construction, concrete properties, steel properties, rising ground rent, rising lease costs, Japanese Knotweed, subsidence, nothing worries us...we will buy your house whatever the problem

no problem!

PI Group
Subject to terms

0800 783 0008 / 01902 628059

I BUY ANY HOUSE
4 CASH
QUICK AND EASY
call Alex
0800 111 4481
01543 499 032
Anytime

SOLD

STRAIGHT TALK

FAST CASH OFFER FOR YOUR HOUSE

0800 500 3109
01902 628060

Need Fast Cash?

Buying property since 1984

THE BEST OFFER ON YOUR HOUSE

0800 077 8808
01384 226087

DON'T DELAY CALL TODAY

for a fast cash offer

01384 226 087
0800 633 5288

NO STRINGS

Local Investor pays you more

Call any time

0800 633 5226 / 01922 689023

CALL PENNY for TOP PRICES NOW

*Local *Honest *Reliable

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01384 226086

PICK UP the phone CALL NOW

Best Price
Sam
01543 499032
0800 500 3109

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE

Call today for a best price

0800 731 1160
0121 274 0398

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS TO LET Single person only. Rugeley and Hednesford. Over 30's. 07932 904898.

BLOXWICH Bedsit in secure building, own kitchen / bathroom, £250pcm plus bills. Deposit / reference required. No DSS / pets. Age restriction applies. 07502 106629.

TWO BED flat Horsefair, Rugeley, 2nd floor, £385pcm plus £500 dep, newly refurbed, DG, no smokers/ DSS. For details 07813 763642.

WALSALL 3 bed house + single room in shared house + house in Blakenhall. 07825 581676.

houses for sale

CHALET FOR SALE
Welshpool Area,
2 beds 1 en-suite, separate bathroom/wc, Double glazed, central heating, sky tv, mains Utilities Fully Furnished, washer/dryer. Quite Private countryside Park £59,950 ovno

For details call Mark 07880 704034.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

HOME CASH BUYER
WILL PAY 15K MORE
Complete within 7 days
Ring Paul, 07870 341089

A BETTER CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time. 01902 628047.

CALL US FIRST FOR THE TOP PRICE for your house. 0800 169 1118.

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY™

We guarantee to beat any like for like quote!

- Reposessions STOPPED
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Houses bought in ANY condition
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared
- Legal fees PAID

OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years

DON'T SELL Before calling me First. Call Richard now: 07756 022973.

FORGET THE REST We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

GET THE BEST PRICE For your house from me now 0121 308 7786.

NEED TO SELL Your Property? All property problems solved. We can help 07814 469056

motoring from page 42

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

SCRAPCARBUYERS.CO.UK
TOP PRICES PAID
0800 533 5139
0121 526 4666
07795 535 007

BJ CARS PAYS MORE
www.bjcars.co.uk
Scrap it legally, NO fines, NO comebacks.
All scrap cars/vans wanted
Best Prices!
01902 498542
01902 658792 EVE

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS Guarantee best cash price for unwanted cars and vans. Call 07585 664389.

spares & accessories

spares/parts

BASTABLES CAR SPARES Batteries, 3 yr warrenty. Antifreeze/ coolant. All seasons screenwash. 0121 5522851 / 0121 5448858

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Lightwoods Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Lightwoods Road between Sherwood Road and Anderson Road Smethwick. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 08/03/15, effective from 08/03/15. Traffic will be diverted via St Mary's Road and Bearwood Road on the north of the cosure and via Adkins Lane and Bearwood Road on the south of the closure (note there is no access into Adkins Lane off Bearwood Road). Purpose – replacement of a damaged manhole cover by Severn Trent Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Church Square, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Church Square, Oldbury. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 16/03/15, effective from 16/03/15. Traffic will be diverted via Birmingham Street, Halesowen Street, Canal Street and vice-versa. The provisions of The Sandwell Borough Council (Church Square, Oldbury) (One-Way Traffic and Prohibition of Waiting) Order 1977 in so far as it relates to the one-way operation of Church Square will be temporarily suspended for the duration of the work. Waiting restrictions still apply. Purpose – reinstatement of the carriageway due to low utility boxes by Severn Trent Water.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Woods Lane, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Woods Lane, Cradley Heath. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 22/03/15 (9.30hrs), effective from 21/03/15 (23.30hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Cradley Road, Chester Road and vice-versa. Purpose – maintenance work to the railway line by Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Langley Green Level Crossing, Crosswells Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Crosswells Road, Oldbury between Western Road and Thompson Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 29/03/15 (09.30hrs) effective from 28/03/15 (23.30hrs). Traffic will be diverted via Western Road, Tat Bank Road, Vicarage Road and vice-versa. Purpose – safety works to Langley Green Level Crossing by Network Rail.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Cornwall Road, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Cornwall Road, Smethwick from its junction with Rabone Lane for 100 metres in a westerly direction. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 21/04/15 effective from 09/03/15. Traffic will be diverted via Wattville Road, Downing Street and Booth Street and vice-versa on the north side of the closure, and Rabone Lane, Rolfe Street, Bridge Street North and Wattville Road and vice-versa on the south side of the closure. Purpose – gas main renewal.

Get Up to 100% For Your House - Fast!

- Any property. Any condition. Anywhere
- Get up to 100% of the market value
- Free valuation. Free consultation
- 100% Confidential. No obligation

Fast Sale Maximum Value

The Property Ombudsman SALES

Yellow Springbok®

UP TO 100% PAID

SOLD

NO OBLIGATION FREE CONSULTATION

24/7 Helpline CALL NOW 0800 092 5743 01902 489 500

YellowSpringbok.co.uk

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Century Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Century Road, Oldbury between McKean Road and Broadwell Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 17/04/15, effective from 09/03/15. Traffic will be diverted via Broadwell Road, Birmingham Road, Birmingham Street, Simpson Street, McKean Road and vice-versa. Purpose – repairs to a damaged Severn Trent Water sewerage pipe.

10 Personals

personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

sports clubs

LICHFIELD AND WALSALL

DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Under 21's Division.

Team Players aged 16 to 20.

Funding available.

Contact Sec.

07711 828221.

ADVERTISEMENTS
CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
   All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
   Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
   The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
4. **Appearance of Advertisements** Whilst the Company makes every effort to comply with requests, publication on a particular date or in a particular position cannot be guaranteed. The Company reserves the right to alter, suspend, cancel or reject an advertisement at its discretion even after the same has been accepted for publication without being liable to compensate you. You will not be charged for any advertisement which does not appear. If only a part of a series of advertisements appears you will only be charged for the advertisements in the series which actually appear. The Company does not guarantee the publication or extent of supporting editorial and your obligation to pay for advertising will not under any circumstances be dependent upon the appearance or content of editorial. No liability will be accepted for non-appearance of editorial. The Company does not guarantee that advertising will not appear for similar or the same subject matter to your advertisement and no liability shall be accepted as a result of such advertising appearing. It is the advertiser's responsibility to provide any amended copy, whether by electronic or other format, and the Company does not guarantee that it will be able to or will agree to modify, amend or alter any file or copy supplied to it.
5. **Liability The Company's** liability for any loss or damage caused by any error or omission in the advertisement or any other breach of contract shall not in any circumstances exceed a full refund of any price paid by the advertiser to the Company for the publication of the advertisement or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of the same type as that which originally appeared. Where a series of advertisements is booked the Company's liability shall not in any circumstances exceed the value of the first advertisement in the series. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the publication of the advertisement the Company will either re-publish the advertisement or the relevant parts of the advertisement or make a reasonable refund of or adjustment to the cost of the advertisement. If the error does not materially detract from the advertisement then no re-publication, refund or adjustment will be made. It is the advertiser's responsibility to check the content of advertisements and the Company will not accept any liability for loss or damage, or obligation to republish or make a refund or adjustment, arising from re-publication of an advertisement containing an error, misprint or omission which has not been identified by the advertiser after first publication.
6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
   Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
   Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
   Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
   To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
   All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
   Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
   Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Local Specialists

Carpets

ABLE & BROMLEY CARPETS/BEDS
FURNITURE/RUGS/VINYLS & LAMINATES
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE

Family run Est since 1978

DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT? OR ANYONE WHO JUST NEEDS EXTRA HELP!

WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.

Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets 'FREE OF CHARGE'
Shave doors. Bed assemble and disposal.

Free quotes and planning

VISA

Click on-line for many great prices www.ablecarpets.co.uk Terms and conditions apply.

80/20 Wool Twists *Was £22 sq yd Now Only* £8.99 sq yd

Wiltons *From Only* £8.99 sq yd

Bleach cleanable carpets *from* £4.99

Mega Ceep Saxony £12.99 *sq mt.*

Special Offer only 6 left. Double memory beds plus *free* matching headboard RRP £799 Now only £250

Divan Beds Single from £96 Double from £160

Quality Double Memory Foam bed *RRP Was £899* Now 299

Luxury Supreme Double bed *RRP £899* Now £360

OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00
Tipton/Wednesbury/Walsall
Keirnon Bromley 0121 530 3633
West Bromwich/Oldbury/Great Barr/Smethwick
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
Wton/Sedgley/Gornal/Dudley
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541

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Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD

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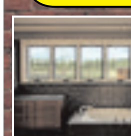

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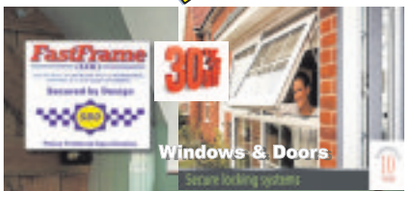

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Morrison badgered Fletcher to join Baggies

JAMES MORRISON admits he badgered Darren Fletcher to join Albion – and insists the Baggies now have a natural-born leader.

Fletcher was one of two Hawthorns arrivals in the January transfer window along with Wigan winger Callum McManaman.

The 31-year-old made the switch from Manchester United and was immediately handed the captaincy by boss Tony Pulis.

And Morrison is thrilled to now be playing alongside his Scotland team-mate at club level.

"Darren was at one of the best clubs in the world so it was a big coup for West Brom to get him," admitted Morrison.

"It shows Darren just wanted to play football, although there were family reasons as well and stuff like that.

"I've known him for a long time and I know what he's all about. When I heard there was a chance of him coming, I was on the phone to him, trying to get him here. I want to play with good players and Darren is certainly that.

"How did I sell the club? I had my ways! I just said it was a real family club with great support. Basically it was all about the lads here and I knew he would fit in right away and he has.

"He's enjoying it, he told me that himself. I knew he would like the manager and he's played a big part in it for Darren, too. Tony has done a great job so far."

Fletcher made 342 appearances for United, with whom he joined as a schoolboy and won five Premier League titles with.

But in recent years the midfielder's career has been halted by a chronic bowel condition.

Allstars give Pulse tough game

Pulse

PULSE United maintained their five point lead at the top of the Pulse Sunday night league after they defeated Allstars 2-1.

United were expected to overwhelm a lowly Allstars side who have just the one win to their name.

But they produced a brilliant display which defies their position in the table to give the league leaders their toughest test of the campaign, exemplified by a brilliant defensive effort which kept an attack that had amassed 33 goals in the four matches previously to just two in this one.

H Holes did their best to keep the pressure on Pulse as they defeated bottom of the table Fearon FC 6-0.

Knowing that anything other than victory would leave their title dreams in tatters, they were always in control against a side clearly lacking confidence at the minute.

It's still looking like it's going to be tough to catch Pulse, but with half of the season still remaining H Hole's momentum is slowly beginning to build.

In the other game of the night Unreal Madrid kept their slim hopes alive as they came up with their best display of the season to beat Midlands FC 11-0.

Pulse still have vacancies in their Tuesday and Wednesday five-a-side leagues, as well as the Sunday eight-a-side.

Anyone interested in entering should contact Pulse on 0121 506 1100 or by email at soccer@pulsewednesbury.co.uk.

Injuries put dampener on Baggies win over Saints

Albion 1 Southampton 0

ON a day when Albion took a major leap towards their primary goal, the sight of both Saido Berahino and Brown Ideye limping off in the second half was the one blot on an otherwise pleasing landscape.

Boss Tony Pulis would not have swapped the three points against the Saints for anything.

But if the injuries to his first-choice strikers prevents one or both of them from figuring against the Claret and Blues, then a vital, hard-fought victory will have come at a cost.

Still, long before he limped off just before the hour mark with a worrying-looking foot problem, Berahino had already provided the moment of brilliance that made the discipline, hard work and decent play of his team-mates count.

His superbly-executed half-volley just 70 seconds into the game was the latest example of the outstanding talent that the 21-year-old boy wonder possesses in his feet.

And with Pulis at the helm, the often temperamental young forward is currently getting things right between the ears, too.

If his 17th goal of a stellar season was the moment that most will remember and the one that underlined his return to his early-season goalscoring form, then the rest of his display was proof positive that Pulis has the arch-goalscorer buying into his team philosophy too.

Brown Ideye's emergence as a Premier League starter and as Pulis' chosen leader of the line has meant a switch for Berahino to a deeper-lying role where defensive duties are more vital than ever.

Dominating Weds can't hold the lead

Wednesbury RUFC 13 Newcastle (Staffs) 17

THIS week Wednesbury entertained Newcastle and, for the second week running, a game they dominated they ended up losing.

This really was a game of two halves from Wednesbury's point of view. As usual their pack was in outstanding form and their lineout performed much better this week, which gave them a platform to play off.

It was their pack's performance that gave them their try, Wednesbury were awarded a scrum 20 metres from the Newcastle try line,.

Wednesbury then drove Newcastle backwards over their line where John McGregor picked up the ball and dived over for the try, Dan Till added the conversion.

The game ebbed back and forth Wednesbury's pack controlling most of the game but the Newcastle winger was proving to be their danger man and they used him to great effect in the battle to break the match dominance of their opponents.

The game continued in this back and forth vein until the whistle blew for half time.

Increased

The second half started well for Wednesbury they increased their lead after only a minute back on the field with a penalty score from Dan Till.

Wednesbury then seemed to go to sleep allowing Newcastle back into the game.

With only seven minutes of the second half played Newcastle got on to the score sheet.

They played the ball out to their winger who raced through to score the try, then he also added the conversion to put the pressure back on the home side.

Wednesbury stepped up the pressure on the visitors but it was not enough to stop Newcastle using their winger to great advantage to go over for their second try and conversion.

Within three minutes Wednesbury were back on the score sheet with another penalty from Dan Till.

After a scrum in midfield the ball was played out to the Wednesbury backs with a fluid series of passes.

The forward players went over for what they thought was a try only for the referee to disallow for a double movement.

Dave Hall goes on the rampage for Wednesbury who although dominating eventually lost the match

Shortly afterwards Newcastle were awarded a penalty which they successfully converted to increase their lead.

With no further score the match finished with Wednesbury suffering another loss this time 13-17.

Wednesbury's man of the match for the second week running went to Dave Hall for another outstanding display.

Next week Wednesbury travel to Uttoxeter with the kickoff at 2.15pm. Wednesbury will be hoping to copy the last time they played the team back in November last year.

Wednesbury were at home when they recorded their biggest win in living memory shutting out their opponents 90-0.

Man of the match on that occasion went to Dale Doughty who had an outstanding game for Wednesbury.

Troughton is heading back to Edgbaston

FORMER Warwickshire captain Jim Troughton is set to return to Edgbaston to join the club's coaching team.

Troughton, who led the Bears to their seventh County Championship title in 2012 and retired from the playing ranks last summer, will return as fielding coach.

Bears director of cricket Dougie Brown said: "Jim is remembered as one of the best captains in the club's recent history and he played a pivotal role in our success last season, despite his playing opportunities being restricted by injury.

"We're thrilled to secure his return as fielding coach. He will travel to both First and Second XI fixtures, but also support Batting Coach Tony Frost and work with Elite Performance Manager Paul Greetham in identifying future leaders."

Handsworth hand Blox a right pasting

Bloxwich RFC 1st XV 12
Handsworth RFC 66

BLOXWICH RFC hosted league leaders Handsworth RFC on a windy day at King George's.

Handsworth grabbed the opening score.

Bloxwich struggled and Handsworth scored further tries in quick succession.

Bloxwich finally scored through No.8 Jack Hunt.

It was a game that was dominated by Handsworth but Bloxwich did have their chances.

Bloxwich's Daniel Hough decided to go the direct route and deflected two tacklers to go over the line and score in the secod half.

Full back Dean Bottomer was good with the conversion from the far right hand side.

Handsworth scored more tries.

Sport

Allstars prove to be tough nuts to crack
Page 47

Wednesbury lose grip on game
Page 47

Victory 'better than a Lottery win'

Football

VILLA boss Tim Sherwood declared his thrilling maiden victory was better than a lottery win after his side triumphed in phase one of their derby double-header against Albion.

Sherwood's side won the first of two derbies in five days thanks to a Christian Benteke penalty deep into stoppage time.

And Sherwood said: "It's the best feeling in the world.

"When I left home this morning my missus said she'd done the Euro lottery for £54m.

"I said I'd take the three points and I mean that. This means more to me."

The win gives Villa fresh hope of avoiding relegation and Sherwood said: "We're still in there fighting.

"If we go down we will go down fighting."

Striker Gabby Agbonlahor says his side will not look back after their dramatic late win re-ignited their survival fight.

And Agbonlahor, who netted Villa's opener in their 2-1 victory, says the win will give the Claret and Blues momentum for the remainder of the Premier League season and Saturday's massive FA Cup quarter-final rematch with Villa at Villa Park.

"It gives us the confidence," said Agbonlahor. "We got that last-minute penalty.

"We haven't had that luck all season and we got the luck last night and now we're not going to look back.

"I had a few chances and was pleased to get on the scoresheet but it was all about team spirit. We believed we could get the three points and we're not going to look back now.

"We will go into Saturday's game looking to win. Every point is crucial and after getting three points everyone is buzzing in that changing room.

BENTEKE BOOTS IN THE WINNER

Villa 2 Albion 1

CHRISTIAN BENTEKE'S stoppage-time penalty gave Villa a priceless Premier League victory and momentum ahead of the second chapter of the derby double-header.

Saido Berahino's second-half equaliser looked set to break Villa hearts only for Benteke to score from the spot with almost the final kick of the game after dreadful goalkeeping by Ben Foster.

Berahino struck on 66 minutes to put the Baggies within seconds of a point despite a display that was well below-par in the first of their two visits in five days to Villa Park.

Villa had led through Gabby Agbonlahor's 22nd-minute strike and they should have been out of sight before Berahino proved to be 'Johnny on the spot' for his 18th goal of the season.

Agbonlahor could have had a hat-trick as Tim Sherwood's men dominated but he was thwarted by a goalline clearance by Joleon Lescott, a fortunate save from Foster and a rebound off the woodwork.

Drama

But it mattered not after the late drama that give Villa a huge three points in their quest to stay in the top flight.

Albion received a major pre-match boost when leading scorer Berahino was declared fit after a foot injury and strike partner Brown Ideye overcame a knee problem. The pair, who both limped off during Saturday's 1-0 win over Southampton, both started as boss Tony Pulis named an unchanged team for the third game in a row.

The first few moments were scrappy with Albion looking to get Ideye in behind the Villa back four and the hosts keen to use the pace of Agbonlahor.

The Baggies kept possession effectively for a moment and released overlapping left-back Chris Brunt, but his cross from deep was overhit.

Tom Cleverley attempted to use the power of Benteke by hitting a ball over the top for the bustling striker to chase, but Foster raced out to get there first.

On 15 minutes the Baggies' No.1 had a major let-off, however, as he fumbled a shot from Agbonlahor after the Villa man had turned away from Lescott and fired at goal.

Foster reacted quickly and clutched the ball, with goal line technology proving it was centimetres from crossing the line as Villa appealed for the opening goal.

Albion were undone by a straightforward punt from Villa keeper Brad Guzan which was flicked on by Benteke.

Agbonlahor darted in behind Lescott and produced a fine finish to put Sherwood's men in front.

Albion were finding Agbonlahor's pace impossible to handle and he almost made it 2-0 just before the half-hour. The visitors started the second half as poorly as they ended the first and Villa had a chance to double their lead seven minutes in when Lescott was booked for a foul on Agbonlahor.

Ashley Westwood took the free-kick but curled his shot over the bar.

Albion seemed powerless to halt their hosts before they suddenly they found a way back on 66 minutes.

Brunt delivered a corner from the right, Lescott rose to head it across goal and Berahino reacted quickest to nod it home.

Villa won it in the third minute of stoppage time through a penalty shot from Benteke .

Craig Dawson of Albion and Ciaran Clark of Villa go head to head in an aerial battle

Wolves hit by two poor decisions

Bournemouth 2 Wolves 1

BELOW-PAR Wolves looked to be victim of two poor decisions as they suffered a deserved defeat at Bournemouth on Tuesday night.

A double from burly striker Yann Kermogant which sandwiched a fine reply from Benik Afobe six minutes before the break was enough to end Wolves' hopes of a fourth straight win.

And although they could have few complaints at the outcome, TV footage appeared to show Richard Stearman's lunge on Callum Wilson for the match-winning penalty in the 49th minute was outside the area.

In addition, there was an unpunished handball in the area by defender Tommy Elphick from Bakary Sako's late free-kick on a night when only Afobe and Kevin McDonald really shone for the white-shirted visitors.

But apart from the 15 minutes before half-time, Wolves were largely second best to a slicker Bournemouth outfit, Afobe's equaliser their only serious attempt on goal.

Boss Kenny Jackett made two changes to the side that beat Cardiff 1-0 on Saturday as Matt Doherty and Nouha Dicko were recalled in place of Dominic Iorfa and Jack Price, which saw Rajiv Van La Parra switch from up front to wide right.

Doherty got his reward to return at right-back after a solid half an hour at Cardiff when he replaced Iorfa, who looked like being sent off, while Kevin Doyle was back on the bench following the birth of his daughter Adrianna on Saturday night.

Wolves were making their first trip to Bournemouth since September 1998 and were chasing a slice of history– their first ever away league win there.

Brummies' Perry is delighted with team's loyal fans

BIRMINGHAM captain Tom Perry held his annual pre-season event in the West Midlands recently – and has thanked supporters for their continued backing.

A night of speedway chat and live entertainment was enjoyed by a crowd of more than 100 in Cradley Heath, on the same night Perry also unveiled his 2015 merchandise.

A grand total of £1,055 was raised at the event and the 22-year-old was delighted with the amount.

"For the third or fourth year running, it's another fantastic sum of money and I can't thank everyone enough," said Perry.

"Even though, I've already got all of my main new equipment and new race suit, I'll be putting the money towards all of the other essentials that I need for the new season.

"It was mainly Cradley fans who came as it was nice and local for them, and even though I'm not riding for them this year, they still came and supported me and I really do appreciate that.

"It was good to see a few Birmingham fans make it too and I can't wait for the season to get going now."

Donaldson in good books as Blues win

Blues 1 Brentford 0

GARY Rowett richly praised the performance of Clayton Donaldson in Birmingham's vital home win over promotion-chasing Brentford.

Following eight games without a win, the Blues carved out this victory as a result of an unfortunate 40th-minute own goal from Brentford centre-back James Tarkowski.

But they had to hang onto their slender lead after Stephen Gleeson was sent off in the 87th minute for stamping on Alex Pritchard.

Birmingham boss Rowett said: "Clayton Donaldson was brilliant against his old team.

"He has been monumental this season and when we play that lone striking role he plays it as well as anyone. He physically imposes himself on the game and is such a great worker for the team.

"That unselfishness gets him into positions as he displayed with the own goal that won the match."

Following that poor home run, Rowett declared: "This is the biggest win of our season. It was an absolute crucial win.

"To get it against a Brentford side who are going really well under manager Mark Warburton was very important.

"I thought we had to get back to basics after a couple of heavy defeats. Perhaps we have been too open in games and too attacking to please people.

"I thought we defended brilliantly against Brentford ."

Birmingham's wincame when Tarkowski put through his own goal when challenged at the near post by the industrious Donaldson.

The sending-off was the sole downside for the home team and Rowett said: "I have spoken to Gleeson."

Keepers are crucial in Saddlers victory

Yeovil 0 Walsall 1

JORDY HIWULA scored on his Huish Park return to snap Walsall's winless run – but this game was all about the goalkeepers.

Both Yeovil keeper Scott Loach and Saddlers' stopper Richard O'Donnell saved penalty-kicks. But unlucky Loach blundered in the game's key moment when he allowed Hiwula's 32nd-minute shot to squirm under his body.

In the end it was enough to earn the Saddlers all three points in a game where they created enough chances to win several times over.

Yet they relied on the brilliance of O'Donnell, who produced a remarkable save to keep out Byron Webster.

★★★

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